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Mugging and stabbing comes to an area that thought it was safe, page 19

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THE

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Bosnia rethink as MPs back force

UN chief calls for troops to pull back

BY JAMES BONE, MARTIN FLETCHER AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Boutros Ghali: favours regrouping UN force

THAT United Nations Secretary-General appeared last night to be preparing to pull troops back from UN "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, just as Parliament gave John Major overwhelming support in sending another 6,000 men and heavy weapons to the former Yugoslav republic.

Boutros Ghali yesterday warned Britain and other countries against using more force in Bosnia, and made clear that if they wanted to take a more robust approach to the Bosnian Serbs, they would have to form a multinational force rather than do it under the UN flag. Dr Boutros Ghali said the UN was "not capable of managing an operation that could involve combat on a considerable scale".

The UN Secretary-General expressed his view forcefully in his delayed report on the future of the UN protection force in Bosnia, and suggested that the force could adopt a more modest role, redeploying peacekeepers out of exposed positions. At the same time, President Clinton indicated that he would consider sending ground forces to Bosnia to help the peacekeepers move to safer positions.

Dr Boutros Ghali's report offers four possible courses of action: withdrawal, maintaining the status quo, to use more force to implement the UN mandate or to revise the mandate to include "only those tasks which a peacekeeping operation can realistically be expected to carry out". He rules out the first two, and appears to favour the fourth, which would involve regrouping the existing forces to "more defensible areas". There were suggestions that that could mean abandoning some of the safe areas.

While Sarajevo would never be left to its fate, Gorazde could be vulnerable and Serb

further troops to strengthen Unprofor. But he says that if they want to make greater use of force, they should take control of the whole operation themselves by setting up a multinational force. That could have the authority of the Security Council, but should be under the command of one or more of the countries contributing troops, as happened in Somalia and Haiti.

Dr Boutros Ghali's report was published as Parliament united behind John Major's decision to send reinforcements to Bosnia and his determination that the UN should not withdraw for fear of allowing the civil conflict to escalate into a full-scale Balkan war. But he said: "Bosnia is at a turning point. It must be made clear to the parties that, if they turned to all-out war, the protection force would not be equipped to remain. They would be unable to carry out their tasks, and the risks to troops of all nationalities would be unacceptable."

President Clinton also said yesterday that a strengthened peacekeeping force in Bosnia was the best insurance against an even worse humanitarian disaster, and while he would not send troops to join Unprofor, he said Congress should be prepared to send ground forces to help it to regroup.

The Administration has previously insisted that its troops would be used only to help to evacuate the 20,000 peacekeepers or to monitor a peace agreement.

Nato military commanders meanwhile met in Naples yesterday to discuss how to pull out if necessary.

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Political battle, page 12

Gorazde attack, page 15

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Leading article and Letters, page 21

All-party support for Major's show of force

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PARLIAMENT gave its backing to Britain's heightened involvement in the Bosnia crisis after John Major yesterday refused bow to Serb blackmail over the fate of British hostages.

As both Houses were recalled for sombre emergency debate on the war in the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, the European Union's mediator there, confirmed in the Lords his intention to resign at the end of this month and voiced fears that UN peacekeepers might have to withdraw by the end of the year.

But in the Commons Conservative MPs who favour a United Nations withdrawal contained their misgivings in a determined show of resolve in support of British hostages and forces, soon to be augmented by the sending of the 5,000 men of the Airmobile Brigade.

The Prime Minister was supported across the chamber as he again set his face against the withdrawal of United Nations forces. "Many who would have died are alive today because of that effort. Many alive today would die if that effort were to be ended," he said.

In a passionate speech promising unremitting efforts to secure the release of one RAF and 33 Army hostages, Mr Major was interrupted only once from the Conservative side. Tory MPs with known reservations chose instead to try to intervene during the speech by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who gave strong endorsement to the decision to bolster British forces.

The Prime Minister won his loudest cheer when Teresa Gorman, his lone Tory ques-

tioner, referred to a report that the Serbs would release British hostages if Nato stopped its airstrikes, and asked what was being done to get Nato to give that assurance.

Mr Major retorted that he yielded to no one in his wish to have the troops safely returned "but I am not entering into that sort of blackmailing deal". British officials made plain later that all options remained open, including that of future airstrikes.

As the debate wore on Conservative anxieties surfaced. Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, urged caution and said the "crux of the whole matter" was whether Britain was prepared to go to war.

"Are you prepared to go to war?" he challenged MPs, adding: "The answer is no." Extra efforts should be made to effect a peaceful settlement, he said. The UN would survive a withdrawal if it came to it.

Sir Peter Tapsell, another senior Tory, asked: "Is British foreign policy going to be based on humanitarian considerations so we have to send

Continued on page 2, col 5



Ian Maxwell and his American-born wife Laura at the Old Bailey yesterday

Maxwell brothers on trial

BY JON ASHWORTH AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

KEVIN and Ian, the youngest sons of the publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell, went on trial at the Old Bailey yesterday — three-and-a-half years after their father was found dead in the sea off Tenerife. They, and two co-defendants, deny charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners of about £12 million. The trial is expected to last six months.

Judge Mr Justice Phillips warned the jury of seven women and five men to ignore what he described as "objectionable and unfair" publicity surrounding the case. He urged them to be particularly wary of suggestions that the two brothers were not entitled to legal aid. He said Kevin had been rendered bankrupt by the collapse of the Maxwell empire, and that both he and his brother had shown they were unable to meet the costs of their defence. "There is no justification for the suggestion they should not have been granted legal aid," he said. "In this country we do not have trial by media. We have trial by judge and jury."

The brothers ran a gauntlet of photographers and reporters to reach the courtrooms on Chancery Lane. Ian Maxwell, 38, was accompanied by his American-born wife, Laura. Kevin, 36, arrived, flanked by his solicitors. His wife, Pandora, was not in court.

'Double take', page 6

Police attacked with firebombs

Average phone bill to go down by £8

BY ERIC REGULY

Gangs of masked youths attacked police with petrol bombs and stones last night in running battles through the streets of Toxteth, Liverpool. Dozens of officers, some armed and others in riot gear, clashed with the youths when three stolen cars were set alight. The trouble erupted after a brother of a gangland victim was remanded without bail at a magistrates' court on a firearms charge.

Tunnel running out of money

Eurotunnel shares plunged again as its co-chairman Sir Alastair Morton told shareholders that the company would run out of money at the end of October. A tough round of negotiations with the operator's syndicate of 225 banks will get under way in the late summer. Page 26

BRITISH TELECOM is to cut the average phone bill by another £8 a year when it begins charging for calls by the second and reduces the cost of weekend local calls.

The 4 per cent reduction in call costs was announced on the eve of publication of a Consumers' Association report that claims BT calls cost up to 37 per cent more than those on Mercury. The change from penny-a-minute local calls and charging in fixed units of more than a second will come into effect on June 28 and will cost BT £310 million in a full year.

BT denied that its announcements were timed to pre-empt the Consumers' Association report, which claims that BT customers can save up to £50 a year by switching to a cable telephone service. BT said the cuts would reduce the average residential bill, including rentals, by 3.7 per cent. The average bill for a business customer would come down by about 3.9 per cent, BT said.

The reductions do not go beyond those demanded by Oftel, the telephone industry regulator; they are simply being implemented sooner than had been expected. About £100 million of the cuts were needed to fulfil BT's obligation to reduce the country's collective phone bill by £400 million in the current regulatory year, which ends on July 31. The remaining £210 million represents a large portion of the reductions that BT would have had to make in the following regulatory year.

City beats off small investors' revolt over gas pay rises

BY ERIC REGULY

ANGRY shareholders overwhelmingly voted against the reappointment of four British Gas directors during an ill-tempered five-hour meeting in London yesterday.

More than 4,500 small shareholders, and a 30-strong pig, attended the annual general meeting in protest at the large pay rises awarded to executive directors last year. But in spite of the vast majority of those attending voting against the reappointment of four directors including Cedric Brown, the chief executive whose pay rose by 75 per cent to £475,000 last year, proxy votes from institutional investors won the day.

The institutions, holding 97 per cent of the votes, also safeguarded the disputed pay structure by allowing Richard Giordano, the chairman, to block two resolutions aimed at reforming executive pay.

Pay campaigners claimed a moral victory, however: Anne Simpson, managing director of investment consultants PIRC, said the company's annual meeting would prove "a watershed in corporate governance". Shareholders had made it clear that excessive pay rises would cost companies dear, she said.

At the outset, the "water-tight" British Gas meeting at London's Docklands had all the makings of carnival. A pink and black sow named Cedric, named for the day in honour of Cedric Brown, was placed in a pen outside the main doors, where he ate from the "trough of privatisation".

While Cedric munched, union members and customers protested in the sun. They chanted "Sack the board, sack the board" as shareholders poured out of buses and trains into the vast London Arena.

Many shareholders were looking for a fight and queued up to register questions at the

booths in the cavernous blue hall, commonly used for boxing matches. Patrick Cronin, a jovial Irishman who lives in London, was brutally direct: "Have you ever considered gassing yourself? Another shareholder, angry about Mr Brown's pay rise, said the publicly listed company "appears to be a private dictatorship as far as salaries are concerned".

Mr Giordano's speech, predictably, defended the executive pay packages by saying that a world class company like British Gas needed to pay top salaries to attract the best

Brown: faced the wrath of his small investors

talent. Restructuring such a large company — 25,000 of the 75,000 employees are either gone or going — was also stressful on management.

Mr Brown said later: "I would not say I enjoyed it but it has been an interesting day — part of life's rich experience... I believe it was a watershed and we must now get on with running the business."

Mr Giordano said it was a "hard day", adding: "I believe today was the lancing of a boil that has been building up for a long time."

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Missing £50million, page 25

Now you don't have to be a boffin to use a PC

On sale 1st June

We all know the PC is the biggest thing to hit the home since the video recorder. The big question is why do all computer magazines talk to readers as if they're experts? They don't. Not anymore...

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Mutiny in ranks as leaders go to war over Bosnia



Dame Elaine

War is no laughing matter, but when MPs waded in — a bunch unable to agree new boundaries in Buckinghamshire, let alone Bosnia-Herzegovina — are we permitted a wry smile?

Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster) arrived in what was either camouflage gear, or an attempt to reproduce the markings of the adult female anopheles mosquito. I don't know what this woman does to the Serbs, but by God she terrifies me. John Major delivered his speech in the "Mystic Meg" voice he now reserves for solemn occasions.

Tony Blair drew his remarks from notes riven with crossings-out and little squiggly lines. It sounded as though Opposition policy, too, is riven with crossings-out and little squiggly lines. There was a squeaky protest at the Serbs' "barbarous" (Blair), "despicable" (Major), "a violation of every canon of international law" (Blair).

Sadly, you cannot fire these canons, so Mr Blair was left brandishing the ultimate punishment for Serbia: "exclusion from the international stage".

Paddy Ashdown, in Royal Marine-speak, on auto-strafe, and holding his notes like a commando on an orienteering course in a force 10 gale, barked "in my judgment" three times, "in my view" four times, "in the final analysis" twice, and appeared

to think Britain should prepare for war with Serbia at once, or sooner.

And all three agreed on this: that as they thought sending 5,000 troops to the Balkans was right, everybody else should shut up. The PM told us it was vital the House send out a unified message.

Tony Blair hinted that it would be unpatriotic ("deeply unhelpful") to sour unity. Mr Ashdown wanted "a single, firm and united response from all sides of this House". The Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, Sir Nicholas

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

las Bonsor, said it would be "folly to venture a view that reflected differences from that of the Government".

But a number did, and many nearly did. In 1982, when Parliament was recalled on a Saturday morning to discuss the Argentine invasion of the Falklands, the House was united in its resolve. Yesterday was no Falklands Saturday at all, but ambiguous in its mood. The Commons was a reluctant warrior.

On the Tory side, Sir Peter Tapsell, Nicholas Budge,

Terence Gorman, Edward Leigh, John Townend and Sir Edward Heath had, by the time I left, expressed doubts or reservations, though some (like Sir Edward) were more mindful than others of the PM's request for an impression of unity.

Many silences, and a few grimaces too, betrayed MPs who had decided to bite their tongues. The Labour benches were surprisingly warlike, but Tony Benn and some of the Left below the gangway dissented.

The afternoon offered one vignette in how — and how not — to recommend a climbdown to MPs. Teresa Gorman suggested we take up the Serbs' offer to release our soldiers in return for an

end to bombing. She was roundly booed, and Major called it a surrender to blackmail. Then, to a neutral silence, Ted Heath (Old Bexley & Sidcup) suggested that a third party might broker such an arrangement: the leader, he thought, of "a small state". Old Bexley & Sidcup is about five miles square.

The media will report that yesterday the Commons overwhelmingly backed John Major's latest moves, and so it did. The Chief Whip, however, will have noted that up to a third of the House is waiting for things to go horribly wrong — whereupon they will declare that they were reluctant passengers from the start, but chose not to rock the boat.

A million cans of beer fitted with widgets were withdrawn from sale yesterday after a drinker swallowed a piece of the plastic device added to cans to give a strength-like effect. Carlsberg-Tetley said it had ordered a recall of cans of Tetley, Ansell's and Burton Draught Bitter, and asked a man in London to swallow a centimetre-square piece of widget. "We have identified the problem as a fault in the packaging process. We estimate it will affect about one in a million cans, but even that is enough for a total recall," a spokesman for the brewer said. Sainsbury has recalled all cans of its Burton Draught Bitter, produced by Carlsberg-Tetley, as a precautionary measure.

Beer cans withdrawn over faulty widgets

Dooley hearing

Wade Dooley, the policeman and former England rugby international, has been charged with a disciplinary offence after being convicted of drink-driving. Dooley, 37, was banned from driving for 18 months and fined £300 after pleading guilty. His case will be heard by Lord Haddock, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, on a date to be fixed.

Hackney review

The new leadership of Hackney Council has launched a systematic review of the files of its 11,000 employees to root out potential job fraud. The council expects the review to take up to four months. Every application form, including those for a change of job within the council, will be checked for consistency. Qualifications will be verified and references tested.

Two still held

Police were granted 36-hour extensions yesterday to continue questioning two men about the abduction and murder of Daniel Handley, the nine-year-old who vanished from his east London home last year. The men, aged 32 and 38, were arrested in raids in south London on Tuesday. Daniel's body was found in a shallow grave near Bristol in April.

Brother had gun

The brother of a man shot dead in a Liverpool gang feud was refused bail by Liverpool magistrates yesterday after admitting carrying a Russian-made automatic pistol. After his solicitor asked for reporting restrictions to be lifted, Colin Ungi, 30, whose brother David was killed in Toxteth a month ago, told the court he was in fear for his life.

Leukaemia hope

New research on childhood leukaemia has found no evidence that the cancer is inherited. Scientists examined the medical records of 788 survivors of childhood leukaemia between 1940 and 1969. None of the 382 children born to them developed cancer. The study was funded by the Cancer Research Campaign and the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Air heroes sale

An autograph book bought at the height of the Battle of Britain and signed by 107 British, American and Commonwealth airmen, many of whom died, is to be sold in London next Tuesday. It was kept by Norman Phillips, a mess steward at RAF Martlesham Heath in Suffolk after a suggestion by Douglas Bader. It is expected to fetch up to £20,000.

Paralysed actor fight



Paralysed actor fight

First royal visit to Dublin for 84 years

Prince's Irish trip hailed as boost for peace process

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN DUBLIN

THE Prince of Wales arrived in Dublin last night to begin the first official royal visit to the city for 84 years, and the first to the Irish Republic since the country wrested its independence, first from Westminster and ultimately from the British Crown.

Flying in a BAe 146 of RAF Royal Squadron, the Prince landed at Balgallon military airfield outside the city, heavily guarded by members of the Irish Air Corps equipped with automatic weapons, tanks, armoured cars and advanced radar. Above the aircraft cockpit flew, side-by-side for the first time, the Prince's personal standard and the Irish tricolor.

He was greeted by Dick Spring, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and Veronica Sutherland, the British Ambassador, who dropped her handbag in the excitement of greeting the visitor with one hand and holding on to her hat with the other.

Under a heavy sky, the Prince smiled broadly and waved to onlookers. "I've always looked forward to coming here," he told them. "Great fishing weather," they called back. Mr Spring told reporters: "This is a very strong message for the Anglo-Irish peace process. There has been hope in the past that this visit would happen: the fact that it is happening now is something to be celebrated."

British and Irish officials emphasised last night that the

historic visit, the first since that of King George V in 1911, was a reflection of the peace process, not an integral part of it. The Prince has long wanted to visit the Republic, but had until now been dissuaded by the British Government.

The Prince's office said yesterday that, since last month, it had been inundated with invitations and messages of goodwill from the Irish people. But the visit has not met with universal approval: Dublin walls bear hastily printed posters declaring "No to Para Prince".

Opponents of the visit, calling themselves DART — Dublin Against The Royal Tour — last night staged a demonstration outside one of the republic's historic sites, the General Post Office in O'Connell Street. They also handed in a letter of protest at Dublin Castle, where the Prince was dining with John Bruton, the Prime Minister.

The protest group, a loose confederation of Dublin Trades Council and relatives of the 13 people shot by members of the Parachute Regiment on Bloody Sunday in 1972, backed by Sinn Féin and the Labour MP Tony Bern, want the Prince, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Paras, to acknowledge some blame for the shootings.

Des Bonass, co-ordinator of DART, said yesterday that the visit was insensitive and wrong. "We are not saying that Prince Charles is not

welcome here as a friend and a tourist. This is not an anti-British campaign; it is against what he stands for and what he represents, as C-in-C of the Paras who have killed 45 people in Ireland."

The Prince was kept well clear of the demonstration, and drove straight to Glencairn, the British Ambassador's official residence outside the city. There he mingled with 800 figures from Irish politics and culture, ambassadors and the British community at a reception to celebrate the Queen's official birthday.

From Glencairn, the Prince's motorcade drove into Dublin where he met Mr Bruton at Government Buildings, once the Royal College of Science, which was opened by George V on his visit. Later Mr Bruton hosted a dinner for the Prince in St Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, once the seat of vice-regal power in Ireland. Prince and Taoiseach sat under an 18th-century ceiling painting of King Henry II receiving the submission of the Irish chieftains in 1171.

Irish television yesterday showed the Prince's arrival live, after the final whistle of Ireland's Rugby World Cup rugby match with Japan. On the streets of Dublin, there was an absence of bunting or crowds, although piles of crash barriers had been dumped at strategic locations in the city centre in anticipation of more public interest when the Prince attends engagements in the city today.

Danish prince chooses British bride

A 30-year-old British commoner is to wed Prince Joachim, second son of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. It was announced yesterday.

Alexandra Manley, a British section head at a Hong Kong investment firm, and the 25-year-old Prince are to be married in Denmark in November. The news came as a surprise to the Danes, who were unaware of the romance between the popular Prince and the economist.

The couple held hands as they were presented to the Danish media in Copenhagen yesterday, the bride-to-be's diamond and ruby engagement ring prominent on her hand. They met in January last year at a drinks party in Hong Kong, when the Prince, second in line to the Danish throne after Crown Prince Frederik, was working for a Danish shipping company.

The prince proposed in January while they were on holiday in the Philippines. The Danish palace announced that Alexandra, a member of the Anglican Church, would convert to the Danish Lutheran Church and apply for Danish citizenship.

The prince and his fiancée left the Danish parliament building by car together with Queen Margrethe and her French-born consort, Prince Henrik, after the engagement was approved at a cabinet meeting chaired by the Queen.

The Danish royal family is far more low key than the British model and contents itself with a minimum of pomp and ceremony.



Prince Joachim and Miss Manley after the announcement of their engagement

Commons unites behind Major

Continued from page 1

armies to all the countries where civil wars break out? What is it about Bosnia that makes it so different from all the others?

The Prime Minister had confronted the Tory doubters head on. He said the war in Bosnia might not directly by itself affect Britain's interests "but a wider conflagration across the Balkans — leading to a wider Balkan war — would undoubtedly do so."

"The Balkans have often been a tinder box. War memorials throughout the United Kingdom testify to the price paid in British blood for past Balkan turbulence," he said.

Pulling out United Nations peacekeepers would trigger attacks on Muslim enclaves in Bosnia. The loss of life could

be enormous. "Could the West stand idly by and let such actions take place in south-eastern Europe? I doubt it. I truly doubt it."

"And would we ignore the threat of an all-out Balkan war? Again, I do not believe we would — or should," Mr Major said.

He called the hostage taking a "despicable act" but gave a clear warning that it might be some time before the hostages were released. "With the lives of British soldiers at stake there will be a need for patience, a time for restraint, perhaps at times a need for silence," he said.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, also backed the Government. Sending more troops was a signal to the Serbs "of the

seriousness of our intent" and withdrawal should be "the last option because it is the worst option".

Lord Owen, whose expected resignation had earlier been announced in Paris, was pessimistic about the prospects of peace. Making his maiden speech in the Lords he said: "I do not believe this humanitarian intervention can be extended through a fourth winter and, if there is not a peace settlement by the autumn of this year, then the UN forces, I fear, will be forced to leave."

Mr Major confirmed that the 6,500 British reinforcements, given the job of supporting 3,400 troops already on the ground, would come under the authority of General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Sarajevo. The first

1,000 troops left for former Yugoslavia on Tuesday and Mr Major said the Airborne Brigade would follow them unless there was a swift improvement in Bosnia. British officials said later the decision in principle to send them had been taken.

Mr Blair said the international community did not have the easy option of walking away from the conflict. Withdrawal would leave the United Nations "utterly humiliated" and would reward Bosnian Serbs for their action in taking more than 350 UN peacekeepers hostage.

Mr Blair said the nation had throughout history been ready to "lift its eyes to the far horizon" and judge its actions not only itself but on world events and history.

Road accident deaths fall to a record low

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FEWER people died on Britain's roads last year than at any time since the mid-1920s, according to official figures released yesterday.

Statistics from the Department of Transport show a 4 per cent fall in the number of deaths to 3,650 in 1994, compared with 3,814 in 1993, the previous record low year, and 4,896 in 1992, when the figures were first collected.

The decline means that the number of fatalities has more than halved since the post-war peak of almost 8,000 deaths in 1966, despite a doubling in traffic. The all-time high of 9,169 was recorded in 1941 when the use of car headlamps was severely restricted by the war time black out.

Britain has the lowest road

death rate in Europe measured by fatalities per 100,000 population and the second lowest, after Norway, according to fatalities per 10,000 vehicles on the road.

However, the improvement in the number of road deaths was overshadowed by a further deterioration in the figures for injuries. The statistics showed that there were 46,531 serious injuries and 265,008 slight injuries last year, both categories increasing by 3 per cent on 1993 levels. The sharp increase was in child casualties, which rose by 6 per cent, including an 8 per cent rise in deaths and serious injuries. Despite its overall good road safety record Britain has one of the worst child casualty rates in Europe.

Product Recall

Carlsberg - Tetley Brewing Limited announces the recall of all cans of the following brands:-

ANSELLS DRAUGHT BITTER CANS
ANSELLS DRAUGHT MILD CANS
TETLEY BITTER CANS
TETLEY MILD CANS
IMPERIAL DRAUGHT BITTER CANS
GOLDEN OAK DRAUGHT ALE CANS

There is a minimal risk that a loose piece of plastic widget may be present in such cans.

As a precaution, all cans are being recalled and customers should return the above cans to the outlet from which they were bought for a full refund.

For further information or in case of difficulty please phone;

0800 427533 (Freephone)

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise to our customers for any inconvenience caused and to reassure them that the replacement products will be back on the shelves as soon as possible.

PRODUCT RECALL

J SAINSBURY PLC

Following the public recall of all Carlsberg-Tetley Brewing Limited widget beers, Sainsbury's announces the recall of all cans of Sainsbury's Burton Draught Bitter, which is produced by Carlsberg-Tetley for Sainsbury's.

This recall is an entirely precautionary measure taken on the advice of the supplier and follows a very small risk of loose plastic being found in the can.

Please return any Sainsbury's Burton Draught Bitter to any Sainsbury's or Savacentre store for a full refund.

No other Sainsbury's product is affected.

FRIDAY IN THE



Greer dial

MAGAZINE

WEEKEND

'Jamie went back to the ship and got Emily off but they were separated in the water'



The Maria Asumpta, left, sailing towards disaster. Above, she keels over as she hits a rock and starts rapidly to break up before disappearing beneath the waves

Survivor fought to save shipmates

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND RICHARD DUCE

TALES of the heroism of the Maria Asumpta crew unfolded yesterday as it emerged that a survivor had fought in vain to save the lives of the two women on board. The oldest operational sail ship was wrecked on rocks near Padstow in Cornwall as it negotiated the treacherous waters. One person died and two are missing believed drowned. Eleven survived.

Jamie Campbell, 23, from Gweek in Cornwall, swam back to the splintering wreck from the safety of the shore in a desperate bid to save Emily Macfarlane, 19, and Anne Taylor, 50, the ship's cook, who were stranded on the boat after deciding they were too weak to swim ashore.

He managed to reach Miss Macfarlane but they became separated in the strong waves and she was swept away. Only two weeks earlier she had rescued a drowning man who had an epileptic fit and fell into the docks at Gloucester where the ship was moored. She

heard his cries and hauled him from the water with a tow rope. At the time, she did not think she had been brave, but Mr Marshall said yesterday that he owed her his life. "I never got the chance to thank her. If it had not been for her I would have drowned."

Philip Chatfield, 36, one of the survivors, said Jamie turned back after seeing the two women on the deck. He said: "Jamie climbed back on to the ship to rescue Emily. He got her off but they were separated in the water. Both women hesitated in getting off because they both had viruses and were not very well."

Mr Chatfield, who was slammed against the rocks by the force of the tide, said: "It was horrendous. It was like being shipwrecked in the last century but instead of being in black and white it was in colour."

Another survivor clung to a splintered piece of wood from the wreck as he waited to be rescued. Benjamin Bowen, 19, another ship's cook, from Yardley Gobion,



Jamie Campbell, who tried in vain to save Emily Macfarlane.



to join the boat. Her husband died of cancer eight years ago. John Shannon, a 24-year-old engineer, was the third victim.

A renewed search for the two missing crew members continued yesterday but was hampered by 'wreckers'. Police arrested two people and said they were appalled to find people some armed with chainsaws, trying to salvage artefacts. One man was seen carrying a small cannon away from the wreckage.

The survivors were named as Philip Chatfield, 36, from Swansea; Adam Purser, 46, from Derby; John Howells, 40, the helmsman from Neath, West Glamorgan; Tim Croome, 26, from Somerset; Ben Bowen, 19, from Northamptonshire; Graham McGlaughlin, 26, from Norfolk; Jamie Campbell, 23, from Cornwall; John Bennett, 37, from New Zealand; Nigel Ludlow, 42, from Bath; and Robert Maunder, 31, from Swansea.

An investigation into the tragedy was launched yesterday by the Marine Accident Branch of the Department of Transport.

'Paralysed' Superman actor fights for life

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

THE actor Christopher Reeve is said by sources at a Virginia hospital to be paralysed from the neck down and fighting for his life. The actor, who starred as Superman in four films, was admitted on Saturday after a riding accident.

Reeve's family have attempted to impose a news blackout on the actor's condition but Arty Pasternick, a patient who is being treated for emphysema at the University of Virginia Medical Centre, claimed that doctors had told him Reeve had suffered a major neck injury. The actor was reported to be heavily sedated and breathing with the aid of a respirator. His publicist insisted he was in "serious but stable condition" and hospital officials would say only that the actor was "not critical" and that his condition was unchanged.

US reports, however, suggest his condition may be far more serious and deteriorating. An unidentified nurse told reporters outside the hospital in Charlottesville that Reeve, 42, had broken his neck in "the worst possible place... and there is every chance he will be paralysed".

Reeve's neck was apparently broken at the highest vertebra at the base of the skull and a blood clot has formed at the back of his neck. The clot is inoperable and could prove



Reeve: competitor

fatal, according to a nurse at the hospital who asked not to be identified.

The actor is being treated behind screens in a ward with ten other patients, Mr Pasternick said. "The doctors are praying for a miracle," the nurse told the New York Post. "He's on a respirator. He has a huge swelling pressing on the brain and there is the possibility of blood clots forming on the brain."

Reeve's publicist, Lisa Kasieler, maintained the actor was still conscious and able to speak, but was being kept under "close observation".

The head of neurosurgery at the University of Virginia, Dr John Jane, said: "It is premature to comment on any permanent damage."

An experienced rider, Mr Reeve was thrown during a

show-jumping event in Culpeper, Virginia, and landed on his head. Officials said that he was wearing a protective helmet.

The actor is a regular competitor on the equestrian circuit in Virginia. He played the title role in the 1978 film Superman and three sequels. His most recent film is John Carpenter's Village of the Damned.

The reported injuries are not unlike those inflicted by the hangman's rope (Dr Thomas Sutulaford writes). Reports suggest that he has broken his neck and damaged the spinal cord at a high level. The closer to the head that the spinal cord is injured, the greater the resulting disability. Reeve's injury has affected the nerves leading to the muscles that control the chest wall so breathing is only possible in a respirator. If the spinal cord has not been completely severed it is possible that when the swelling which always follows an accident has subsided, there may be some small degree of recovery.

He will also be unable to move his limbs, control his bladder or bowels or have any sense of touch. The bleeding into the central nervous system brought on by the injury to his neck has also apparently resulted in damage to the structures at the base of the brain; any extension of these blood clots would be life-threatening.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Greer diary

GERMAINE GREER,
THE TIMES'S NEW COLUMNIST
IN THE

MAGAZINE

SPECIAL OFFER ON TICKETS TO
THE ROYAL ACADEMY
SUMMER EXHIBITION
IN
WEEKEND

Missing drug dog sniffed out by police

By NICHOLAS WATT

JAKE the Labrador, Ireland's most successful sniffer dog, was found yesterday in a disused farm shed. Police feared he was to be killed by suspected drugs dealers.

Officers said the six-year-old dog was in good condition when they broke into the shed near Bridge-town, Co Wexford, at 2.30am yesterday. It had been abducted from its home near Wexford Town on Saturday. Jake was reunited with its handler at Wexford police station. Inspector Patrick Delaney, who led the hunt, said: "It was very emotional for the handler. They are inseparable and Jake is treated as one of the family."

The dog, which has uncovered drugs worth £9 million at Rosslare Harbour, will rest for a few days before returning to work. Inspector Delaney said: "He is a very special dog, an integral part of the fight against the importation of drugs through Rosslare. The thieves intended to do away with him."

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THE TIMES
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Brothers are accused of fraudulently using shares to prop up Robert Maxwell's failing companies

Maxwell jury told of 'double take' from pension cash

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND JON ASHWORTH

A DOMINEERING Robert Maxwell conspired with his son Kevin to swindle Maxwell pensioners out of shares worth more than £100 million to try to shore up imperilled companies owned by the late media tycoon, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

After Maxwell's mysterious death at sea in November 1991, Kevin and his brother Ian, with two financial executives, used another £22 million of pension fund assets in an effort to pay pressing debts and to save the "desperate" group from collapse.

The allegations were made on the first day of the fraud trial of the Maxwell brothers, which is expected to last six months and to cost the taxpayer more than £10 million.

Mr Justice Phillips warned jurors to disregard previous media comment about the Maxwells receiving legal aid. He said Kevin had been made bankrupt by the collapse of the Maxwell group and he and his brother had satisfied the legal aid authorities that they were unable to meet the high cost of their defence.

The start of the long-awaited trial at Chichester Rents, an annex of the Old Bailey designed for complicated fraud trials, was delayed for two hours by a series of technical problems. The courtroom is equipped with the most advanced computer equipment used in a British criminal trial, capable of delivering simultaneous onscreen text of the hearing at a hire cost of £2,000 a day, but the sound system failed twice.

The four smartly dressed defendants sat individually with their defence teams, listening intently as Alan Suckling, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury of seven women and five men: "This case concerns the misuse of assets of pension funds."

Kevin Maxwell, 36, denies conspiring between July 3 and November 6, 1991, with his late father to defraud pension scheme trustees and beneficiaries of pension schemes participating in the Common Investment Fund managed by Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd (BIM). He is said to have dishonestly put at risk 5.4 million shares in the Israeli-owned Scitex Corporation for

the purposes of Robert Maxwell Group plc (RMG). The charge specifies that part of the shareholding was deposited with National Westminster Bank to secure RMG overdrafts until it was sold and used to the benefit of RMG.

With his brother Ian Maxwell, 38, and the financial executives Larry Trachtenberg, 42, and Robert Bunn, 47, Kevin also denies a similar conspiracy involving 25.2 million shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, another Israeli company, between November 5 and 21, 1991.

Mr Suckling said: "In the second half of 1991 the group of companies controlled by the late Robert Maxwell were in debt and they were in increasing financial difficulties. They were finding it harder and harder to pay their bills."

"Employees, people working for some of these companies, had over the years contributed savings to occupational pension schemes to provide funds for their old age, and their employers had also contributed. Those savings were held in trust and invested." Investments made



Larry Trachtenberg, left, Kevin Maxwell, centre, and Robert Bunn outside the Old Bailey annex yesterday. The trial is expected to last six months

by the pension funds for employees were in the two highly successful Israeli companies.

Between July and October 1991, Mr Suckling said, Robert and Kevin Maxwell agreed to use Scitex shares worth £100 million to help companies owned directly or indirectly by Maxwell interests that were in "a perilous position". They used the Scitex shares to meet the debts of the privately owned companies but the pension trustees were never paid for them.

Mr Suckling said: "The prosecution case is that the agreement to use the Scitex shares in this way was dishonest and a fraud on the pensioners."

In November 1991, after the death of Robert Maxwell, who

fell from his yacht *Lady Ghislaine* off the Canary Islands, the position of the Maxwell companies was desperate. The four accused allegedly used the £22 million Teva shares belonging to the pension scheme to borrow money fraudulently from the National Westminster Bank to meet their debts and try to save the Maxwell group.

Outlining the roles of the key players, Mr Suckling said: Robert Maxwell was a director of most, if not all, of the unlisted and listed companies, including Headington Investments Ltd, Robert Maxwell Group, Maxwell Communication Corporation plc (MCC), Mirror Group Newspapers plc and BIM.

"He was, you may conclude, the driving force, and exer-

cised dominant control over the group and the operation of the pension schemes," Mr Suckling said.

Kevin was a director of a number of companies, including pension funds and BIM. "Although he worked under the dominant control of his father, he was closely involved in the financial affairs of the group. In the second half of 1991 he dealt on a daily basis with the banks who lent to the group," Mr Suckling said. The prosecution case was that "he was the one most responsible for the misuse of pension fund assets".

Ian Maxwell was a director of several companies, pension scheme trusts and BIM. "His principal role was publishing, marketing and sales but he attended certain important

meetings of the Robert Maxwell Group and MCC in July and August 1991 and became involved in dealing with the crisis in the financial affairs of the group after Robert Maxwell's death."

Mr Suckling said the directors of London and Bishopsgate Group plc were Robert Maxwell from early 1991 to his death, Kevin and Mr Trachtenberg. Robert Maxwell and Kevin were also directors of the London and Bishopsgate Group subsidiary that dealt with international investment. Mr Bunn was a director of that company, as was Mr Trachtenberg.

Describing the pension fund structure to the jury, Mr Suckling said: "Most of the companies of the Maxwell

group operated occupational pension schemes to which employees contributed." The principals were the Mirror Group pension scheme; the Maxwell Communication pension plan; the MCC works pension scheme; and the AGB pension scheme. Others included the Pergamon AGB pension scheme, the Withy Grove pension scheme and the Headington pension plan.

Mr Suckling said contributions to the various pension schemes were held by a trust company, which would take certain measures on behalf of the beneficiaries. There was a separate trustee company for each scheme with its own board of directors.

The MCC pension trustees had Robert Maxwell and his

Continued on page 7

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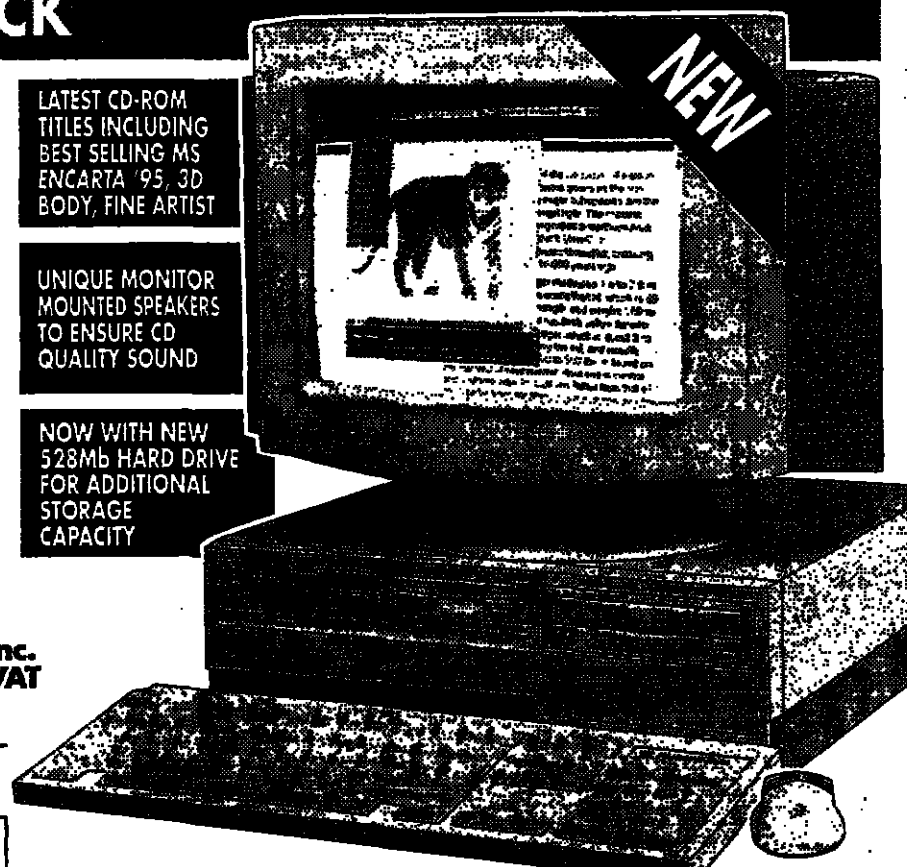


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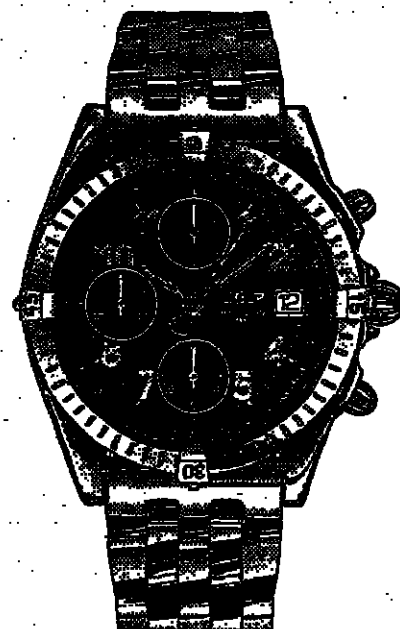
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Scientists blame drought for bringing Central America's Mayan civilisation to its knees

How heat and dust killed a proud jungle empire

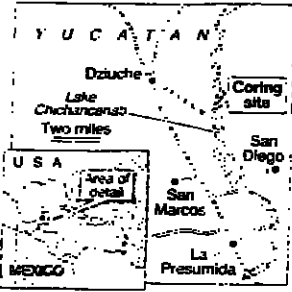
By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Maya civilisation, which flourished for more than 2,000 years and then abruptly declined, may have been the victim of climate change.

New research has shown that between 750 and 900 AD, when classical Mayan civilisation wasted away, Central America suffered its driest period for 6,000 years. The elaborate Mayan cities with their large populations could no longer sustain themselves and cultural paralysis set in.

The event has been described as one of the greatest human tragedies but its causes have never been determined. Now three scientists from the University of Florida have provided new evidence to strengthen the hypothesis that drought was a major contributor.

Dr David Hodell, Dr Jason Curtis and Dr Mark Brenner report in *Nature* that they have analysed a sediment core from Lake Chichancanab, in



what is now Mexico, to create a continuous record of climate for the past 8,000 years.

They measured oxygen isotopes in the sediments. The water in the lake evaporates rapidly in the dry season, with the water containing the lighter oxygen isotope, oxygen-16, more likely to evaporate than that containing the heavier oxygen-18. As a result, the ratio of these two isotopes provides an indication of whether rain or evaporation predominated at any point in the past. Shellfish in the lake created the calcium carbonate for their shells from oxygen in

the water. Records of oxygen isotope abundance are recorded in the sediment, which consist of the remains of these creatures.

While the evidence of drought from Lake Chichancanab is not in itself sufficient to prove the case, the Florida scientists say that it is supported by evidence of low lake levels in Mexico at the same time and of forest fires in Costa Rica.

Mayan civilisation began about 1,500 BC but the culture that produced the great monuments emerged about 250 AD. At its height it consisted of more than 40 cities and the population may have been two million. The cities, which included Tikal, were magnificently built and included temples and pyramids. The Mayans also developed a form of writing which has now been deciphered. After about 800 AD, however, a decline began. The last dated monuments correspond to 899 but soon after that whole regions were abandoned. The Maya were

not under external threat nor is there any evidence of peasant revolts.

The evidence is that many of the people simply went elsewhere, leaving the jungle to grow over their great cities. By the time Spanish conquerors arrived in the early 16th century, little of the glory was left. It was not until this century that archaeological excavation revealed the full extent of classical Maya civilisation.

The mystery, says Dr Jeremy Sabloff of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia, is how a culture that had overcome numerous problems and reached population levels far above those in the same area today ultimately failed.

The findings could have a modern relevance. He asks: "How severe do internal stresses in a civilisation have to become before relatively minor climate shifts can trigger cultural collapse?"

Leading article, page 21



A Mayan temple which was discovered last month in the Honduran jungle

130,000 'in deep trouble' on home loans

By Ian Murray
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 130,000 mortgage borrowers significantly risk losing their homes in the near future, according to Shelter. Repossessions will probably become a well-developed, permanent feature of the housing market, a report by the charity for the homeless says today.

The study found that 250,000 owner-occupiers — one in twenty — owe more than six months' repayments. Only a quarter of these are reducing their arrears and the remaining 138,000 face an increasing risk of losing their homes, including 130,000 in significant difficulty. Although the number in long-term debt fell by 65,620 last year, that was largely because 49,210 properties were repossessed.

Although there has been a big fall in the numbers in long-term arrears since the early 1990s, when one in twelve was in trouble, those now in debt face greater problems in catching up because of negative equity, lower wages and decreasing benefits.

The report blames the Government for backing a home-ownership policy without protecting borrowers from "the vagaries of wider economic policies", such as rising unemployment and increases in interest rates. Low-income borrowers, including those buying council houses at discounted prices, were especially vulnerable.

A borrower interviewed in case studies that accompany the report said: "We did everything we were told to do ... stand on your own two feet ... and now they don't want to know." A mother said: "We've been at the top and all the way down. We don't eat the same. Sometimes we go two or three days without electricity." According to the report: "The reality is that more rather than less social housing provision is now required."

Unemployed borrowers are better off than those with a low-paid job because they can qualify for their repayments to be made in full. But the change from unemployment benefit to the new job-seeker's allowance means that it will be impossible to turn down a job on the ground that an individual will be worse off in work than on the dole.

Further proposed changes in unemployment benefit will mean that a higher proportion are likely to build up arrears so large they will never be able to recover, the report says. *Which way out?* Shelter (88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU; £8.50)

Census reveals Scottish loners

By A Staff Reporter

THE homes of the six loneliest people in Scotland, who live alone on remote islands, were identified by census officials yesterday.

But officials protected the hermits from unwelcome scrutiny and did not disclose if they were male or female.

The figures, published in a study of Scotland's inhabited islands, show that some of the single-resident islands were home to small communities only 15 years ago. In 1981, nine people lived on Eilean Tioram off the northeast coast of Skye. Isle Martin, near Ullapool, had two people in 1981 but none in 1961 and 1971. Danna, to the east of Jura, had seven inhabitants in 1981. So had Shuna A, a little further north.

Torsa, a few miles from Shuna A, had no inhabitants in 1981 and 1971, but five in 1961. Vaila, off the Shetland mainland, had nine people in 1961, five in 1971 and none in 1981.

By 1991, 103,000 people lived on 94 islands throughout Scotland, an increase of 2.5 per cent in ten years. The biggest group of islanders, 21,737 of them, live on Lewis and Harris.

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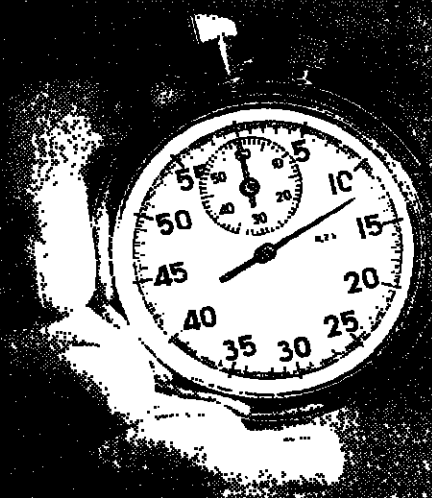
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American Indians apply to resume whale hunting

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "Young people who leave school without the basics will find it much harder to get a job in later years. We must have a crusade to improve the three Rs from the very start of primary school."

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

Delegates accused the Government of failing to deliver more money for education and making larger classes inevitable. The conference voted unanimously to affirm its "professional view that lower class size is significant in improving educational performance, and is also a major requirement of parents".

10



Native Siberians have also
 applied to kill a small number
 of bowhead whales for "cultural
 purposes" but some conserva-
 tionists and commission offici-
 als are worried that the
 romantic image of a native
 Indian, Greenlander or Eskimo

Their proposal was outvoted amid fears that to allow the Japanese that concession could pave the way back to a world-wide resumption of whaling. Under present agreements, only Norway carries out commercial whaling of minke under a legal objection to the whaling moratorium.

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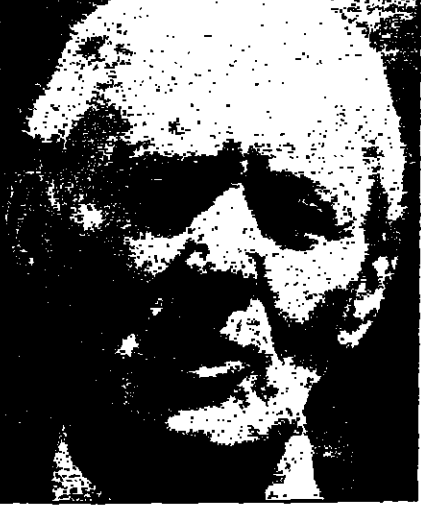
'There is no easy solution. There will be blood and mayhem if we don't act and blood and mayhem if we do'

David Howell



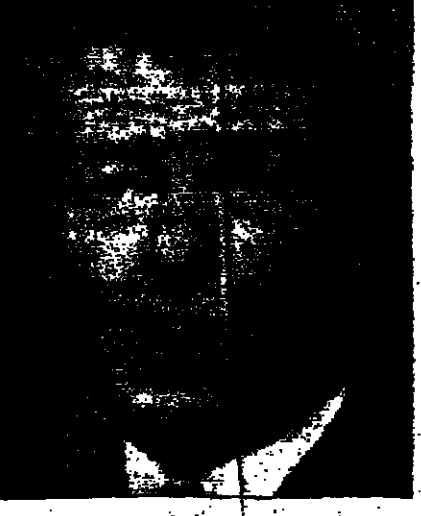
'I have no doubt that reports will quickly pass to Pale as to whether the UK stands behind the Government'

Tom King



'I don't think we should give the Government a blank cheque to do what it likes with soldiers in great danger'

Tony Benn



'Withdrawal would lead to death of UN as an organisation capable of contributing to world peace'

Paddy Ashdown

Prime Minister rules out direct military action to free soldiers taken hostage by Serbs

Major leads MPs in condemning 'despicable' breach of law

By JAMES LANDALE AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR yesterday condemned the Bosnian Serbs for taking United Nations peacekeepers hostage in the former Yugoslavia but stressed he would refuse to enter into any "blackmailing" deal to secure their safe return.

The Prime Minister said there were clear humanitarian and strategic reasons for UN protection forces (UNPROFOR) to continue their work in Bosnia but warned that they would be withdrawn if the risks became "unacceptable". He also made clear that UN forces would have the full unqualified backing of the British government for any action taken in justifiable self-defence. He also stressed that only a political solution would end the crisis.

Opening the emergency debate on the Bosnian crisis, Mr Major told a packed House of Commons that the taking of UN hostages was a despicable and outrageous breach of international law. "It is without a shred of justification," he told MPs. "It will win the Bosnian Serbs no favours and no friends. It will guarantee them unremitting hostility to them and the certainty of pariah status and international isolation."

Teresa Gorman, MP for Billerica, intervened to ask if the Government would agree to the Bosnian Serbs' proposal that the hostages would be released if Nato stopped launching airstrikes. To loud cheers of support, Mr Major replied: "I yield to no one in my wish to have those troops safely returned but I am not entering into that sort of blackmailing deal!"

However, the Prime Minister hinted there would be no immediate action. "With the lives of British soldiers at stake, there will be a need for patience, a need for restraint, perhaps at times a need for silence. However, the work to secure their release will be unremitting."

The Prime Minister outlined the new British forces and material being sent or put on standby for Bosnia and made clear they had two objectives: to protect British troops already on the ground

and to provide support for a possible withdrawal.

"Our troops have not gone to Bosnia to wage war," he said. "But even on humanitarian duties we have seen they need protection. If they are attacked, they must be able to defend themselves robustly."

Mr Major said that the situation in Bosnia was now "tense and dangerous" and had reached a turning point. "It must be made clear to the parties that if they turned to all-out war, Unprofor could not remain. It would be unable to carry out its tasks and the risks would be unacceptable. Withdrawal is not, not our objective, but our ability to handle withdrawal if it is forced upon us would undoubtedly be helped by this further deployment."

For the Opposition, Tony Blair said Labour fully supported the Government's line. "I believe that the more united we can be in this House on this issue, the better," he told MPs. The Bosnian Serbs had breached "every canon of international law," he said, and "should be in no doubt as to the national sentiments of this House and the British people, should any harm come in any way at all to any one of those hostages. We would expect and demand, and would, pursue those responsible without any let or quarter whatever."

Mr Blair supported the Government's decision to send reinforcements to Bosnia but emphasised that there should be a clear chain of command with clear rules of engagement. "I believe that talk of withdrawal in Bosnia in response to the taking of hostages is deeply unhelpful at this time," he said. "It is hardly a message of firm resolve in what is effectively an act of coercive blackmail."

While he could understand the view that British lives were being put at risk in a war that was distant and opaque, he said Britain had a firm responsibility to be involved.

Intervening, Sir Peter Tapsell, Tory MP for Lindsey East, said there were numerous civil wars going on around the world and asked if it was to

be British foreign policy send armies to all of them.

Mr Blair said that was not a compelling case for leaving Bosnia. "This is a conflict that was here in Europe, a conflict whose consequences could have spread right into neighbouring European states. We had to make a judgment where our national interest lies, as well as the humanitarian concerns, and that judgment is overwhelmingly in favour of involvement."

Mr Blair said Britain's role was to enforce the UN mandate to facilitate a negotiated settlement without getting involved in open-ended combat. The UN mandate had to be enforced clearly and backed up with the necessary men and weapons, he said. Safe areas should be demilitarised and tougher sanctions against the Bosnia Serbs enforced.

"But above all, the UN's presence can only act as a platform for a diplomatic peace effort," he said, urging unity in the Contact Group. We should see if out of this fresh crisis, a clearer, firmer strategy can be produced with the political will to achieve it.

The decisions we take now

are of momentous import for the world, its order and stability. Let us make sure that these decisions are the right ones, for we shall live with their consequences."

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, said Britain's first duty was to secure the release of the British hostages and to respect the decisions of the UN commanders on the ground.

He supported the Government's search for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. Withdrawal, he said, would be the worst option which would lead to a wider Balkan war. "It will be very difficult and extremely costly, almost certainly in lives

as well as material. And it would be colluding in the death of the UN as an organisation capable of contributing to world peace."

Mr Ashdown, a former Royal Marine, also called for US troops to be deployed on the ground. "No single act would better show the solidarity of the international community or do more to convince the Bosnian Serbs of the seriousness of their position, than the commitment of US ground troops to the force in Bosnia."

However, he warned that if the situation deteriorated further, the UN should consider taking sides and enter the war as an active participant. "I hope the steps which are now planned will succeed in avoiding that choice," he said. "But if they do not, we must be clear that it will always be preferable to take sides against aggression than it is to run away in the face of it."

Sir Edward Heath, the Father of the House and former Prime Minister, said the debate was simply about whether or not Britain was prepared to go to war. "Are you prepared to go to war?" he asked MPs. The answer is "no."

He attacked Mr Ashdown's demand for a tougher international response to the Bosnian war. He told the Liberal Democrat leader: "What that means is going to war, there is no other interpretation of what you have been saying, and that I cannot accept and nor will I. I think, the people of this country accept that."

Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, said he would try

and force a vote at the end of the debate to oppose the Government. Adjournment debates usually end without a division: "I intend to vote against what the Government has done because I think the policy of the Government endangered the hostages and because the uncertainty of our objectives now could put them into greater danger. I don't think we should give the Government a blank cheque to do what it likes with our soldiers in a situation of quite exceptional danger."

David Howell, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, supported the Government's move as a short-term response but called for a regrouping of UN troops and for a partial withdrawal, in the longer term. Conceding that there was no easy solution, he added: "There will be blood and mayhem if we don't act and blood and mayhem if we do."

Mr Howell argued that he would be in favour of a huge military operation to crush the Bosnian Serbs if the will existed. "But I think it is totally unrealistic to talk in such language. We do not have the will power and I doubt if we have the military capacity."

Tom King, the former Defence Secretary also gave his support to the Government's action. He reminded MPs that reports of the Commons debate would not doubt be read with interest by the Serbs. "I have no doubt at all that reports will quickly pass to Pale (the Bosnian Serb capital) as well as to whether the UK stands staunchly behind the Government in the actions it

has taken." Mr King warned against "a one-way delivery system" to boost arms in Bosnia. "There will be envious eyes on the 105mm guns," he said, and argued that there should be very clear rules of engagement to ensure that valuable equipment was properly defended.

Sir John Stanley, former Defence Minister, claimed that the massive hostage taking had been tantamount to an "undeclared declaration of war" against the UN people of Bosnia.

In the longer term the UN troops should be spread over a smaller geographical area, to decrease their exposure. There should then be a further review to see whether the residual humanitarian role was a viable one, he argued.

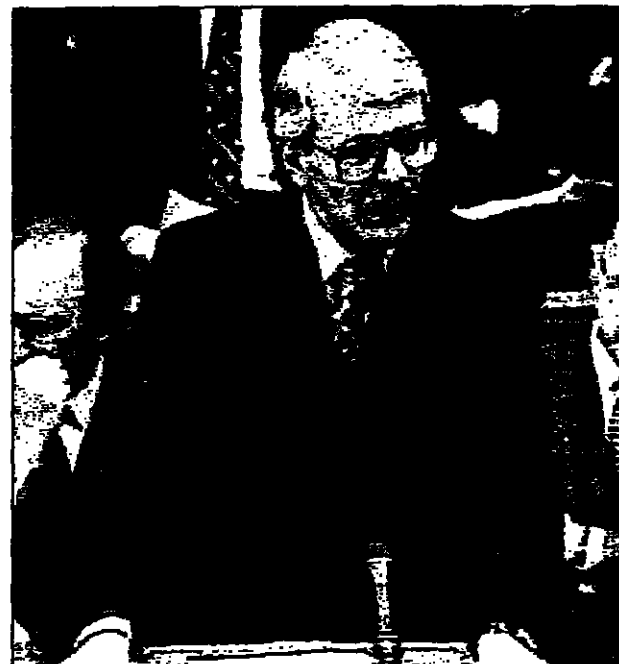
Sir John Stanley said withdrawal would lead to a "significant" increase in the death toll.

"If we left Bosnia now we would leave an essentially uncontrolled inferno and no one can say how high the fire would go or how wide," Sir John said.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Tory chairman of the defence select committee, said everything possible should be done to release the hostages and British troops should stay in Bosnia until their position became intolerable.

He said: "We must take every step, whether it is diplomatic or military, to secure the release of our hostages and also to ensure that no more such hostages can be taken."

British response, page 12
Serb attack, page 13



Major: unqualified backing for self-defence

Plight of British troops halts hostilities in the House

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

John Major needed to make a strong case for the continued presence of British troops in Bosnia, and he did so in the Commons yesterday. Earlier in the week, there had been signs of growing Tory dissent, from the nationalist right and some usually flagrant newspapers. But the soundbite runnings of the studios were generally not repeated in the chamber.

The only Tory MP openly to challenge the Prime Minister was Teresa Gorman, whose typically ill-judged point about promising not to bomb the Bosnian Serbs in return for the release of British hostages was contemptuously brushed aside. Tory doubters like

Nicholas Budgen, Iain Duncan-Smith and Sir Peter Tapsell waited to intervene until Tony Blair's strong speech of support for British involvement. Some muted criticisms were expressed later, but while British troops are held captive, nobody is going to be too hostile. The terms of the political debate over Bosnia have, however, changed. In the past, the Government case rested mainly on the humanitarian work of British troops in helping to alleviate suffering. This still applies. Many lives have been, and are being, saved. But that is no longer

sufficient given the increased dangers to British troops.

Mr Major yesterday shifted the emphasis more to Britain's national interests. The Bosnian war, he acknowledged, might not directly affect our interests, but "a wider conflagration across the Balkans, leading to a wider Balkan war, would undoubtedly do so". He argued that United Nations involvement had helped contain the conflict to Bosnia, while a wider war could easily have dragged in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Such a conflict would be "disastrous for Europe as a whole."

It is unquestionably in our national interest to avert this if we can."

Containment may not produce a lasting solution. But it is better than these alternative outcomes since no one, least of all often vocal American critics, is prepared to commit the troops needed to impose a settlement. Moreover, as Mr Major argued, even if the Government is forced by an all-out war to withdraw troops, that would not end Britain's interest in the conflict. There might be both an overrun of the Moslem enclaves and a danger of a wider war.

These risks do not convince the Tory nationalists who do not believe British national interests

are at stake. While admitting that a withdrawal of the UN forces might be followed by bloody fighting, they argue this tribal conflict would sort itself out over time without involving either other European countries or Russia and America.

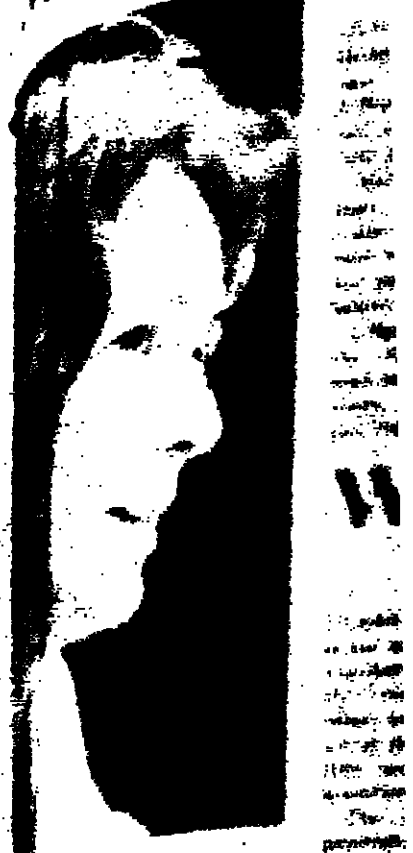
Mr Major yesterday won some room for manoeuvre, but the support is conditional. Most MPs are prepared to accept Mr Major's appeal for patience, restraint and silence over the British hostages. But these are not indefinite. If the additional troops now being committed are drawn into full-scale fighting, calls for withdrawal will become more insistent.

More striking, however, than the

specific points made about Bosnia was the widespread belief that Britain should be involved in such conflicts. This view is shared by the frontbenches and by most MPs—with the exception of the nationalist Tory right and the old Labour left. What Douglas Hurd likes to call "punching above our weight" was yesterday echoed by Mr Blair's talk of a British willingness to lift eyes to far horizons and by Paddy Ashdown's reference to a Security Council seat. The foreign policy establishment need not worry. A belief in Britain's global role is likely to last into the next century.

PETER RIDDELL

MPs com



Labour proi
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BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD OWEN yesterday addressed his fellow Peers for the first time since becoming the EU peace mediator for the former Yugoslavia and said the Government was right to nearly triple the UK presence of troops in the area.

But speaking in the emergency debate in the House of Lords, the former SDP leader also warned that if there was no peace settlement by the autumn, UN forces might have to withdraw.

Drawing on his three years of experience as EU co-chairman of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen told Peers in his maiden speech that direct negotiations with the warring factions were the only answer: "Hopefully we will hear a little less from the lap-top bombardiers and a little more of the voice of compromise and reason."

Otherwise, he warned, "I do not believe this humanitarian intervention can be extended through a fourth winter and, if there is not a peace settlement by the autumn of this year, then the UN forces, I fear, will be forced to leave."

Lord Owen said that when he was appointed mediator in August 1992 he had hoped his role would take no more than six months. He was optimistic about brokering an early peace but having seen the carnage of Serb shelling in Sarajevo, he soon realised his task would be fraught. "These people I negotiate with out there have taken lying to a new art form, and the scale of atrocities is like nothing I have ever seen."

He confirmed he would be resigning in June and told the Upper House: "In view of the grave situation developing with tragic predictability in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I felt it was right that I should speak in this parliamentary debate."

He told Peers to concentrate on the central question of whether British forces were being sucked into a Balkan war as a combatant, on the back of a UN humanitarian intervention. "Sadly, my answer is that we are, and we need to be very clear about what is involved if we are to go down this route," he said.

"Slowly and inexorably on the ground those who wear the UN blue helmets are being dragged into the conflict between the parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We should not be surprised by this trend, given the massive pressures for this to happen but we need to decide for ourselves whether we will allow this to happen."

Lord Owen cited the example of the UN humanitarian mission under America which got sucked into Somalia in 1993 and bogged down in the local conflict.

Lord Owen gave his full backing to John Major: "There is only one way forward in Bosnia-Herzegovina. That is for the UN to be given every possible assistance to sustain its presence on the basis of the impartial application of its humanitarian mission."

The Boom Summer

MPs condemn 65% rise for gas regulator



Spottiswoode faces MPs on July 5

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SPOTTISWOODE, the director-general of Ofgas, is to face tough questioning from an influential committee of MPs over her reported request for a 65 per cent pay rise.

Richard Cadden, Labour chairman of the all-party Commons trade and industry committee, said MPs would ask her to justify her pay claim when she appeared before them on July 5.

Ofgas said Ms Spottiswoode's pay, estimated at £70,000 a year, was negotiated with the Government, but it did not deny that the gas regulator had asked Michael

Helsetine, the President of the Board of Trade, for a pay rise of 65 per cent, which would boost her salary to £110,000.

Labour called on the Prime Minister to publish full details of the pay received by the utility regulators as it condemned Ms Spottiswoode's "sheer effrontery" for asking for an increase significantly above the 3 per cent limit for civil servants.

Brian Wilson, trade and industry spokesman, accused her of joining Cedric Brown, the British Gas chief executive, recently awarded a 75 per cent pay

increase, in the "rush for the trough". He argued that privatised utilities had created a small group of people who believed themselves to be completely immune from the pay rules which affected everyone else.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, predicted a public outcry over the reported pay claim. "I think people would find it very strange that at a time when nurses are getting less than 3 per cent, a regulator also in the public sector could be asking for something more than 50 per cent," said Mr Brown.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, he questioned

whether someone with a 65 per cent pay rise was going to be effective in policing companies which had received 75 per cent rises.

Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, which represents civil servants, said the timing of the pay claim was unfortunate, but that it was up to ministers to decide if Ms Spottiswoode merited more money. She said that independent bodies had found that senior civil servants were underpaid compared to their counterparts in the private sector.

She pointed out that the most Ms Spottiswoode could expect to

earn on her present grading would be £98,000 rather than £110,000.

Ms Spottiswoode is due to appear before the trade and industry select committee next month to discuss the Ofgas annual report.

"Asking for a 65 per cent increase, at this time, is a little naive to say the least," Mr Cadden said. He said that if the Government was to apply a public-sector limit of 3 per cent, set by the Treasury, the regulator should not be treated differently from any other public servant.

Brown saved, page 1

Academics warn Blair not to lose sight of socialism

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR was warned by senior Labour academics yesterday not to abandon the "socialist heart" of Old Labour in his drive to modernise the party.

Lord Young of Dartington, who drafted the Labour manifesto in 1945, and A.H. Halsey, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Nuffield College, Oxford, urged the Labour leader to stand up for society's "disadvantaged and deprived", especially children.

"We do not hold to the tradition of socialism just because it is the tradition, but because if redressing deprivation ceases to be the central issue of politics, the heart and the interest will go out of politics and out of democracy," they said in a monograph called *Family and Community Socialism*, published by the Institute for Public Policy Research yesterday.

"Socialism was — and should in its new form also be — about the need for redistribution from rich to poor."

They said a new Labour Government should clearly set out its priorities to replace old policies that have been abandoned. "To cut out dead wood is the easy part," they said. "To grow new wood is more difficult."

The authors called particularly for the plight of poor children to be addressed, which they said was one of the most serious social problems of our time.

Among a raft of radical proposals, Lord Young, 79, and Professor Halsey, 72, called for child allowances in income support to be doubled to £30 per child and for the introduction of a "parent wage". This would replace income support, be paid to any parent staying at home to look after a child under five, and would not be proportionate to the income of the family's breadwinner.

The authors also said the electoral franchise should be extended, giving an extra proxy vote to parents which they can cast on behalf of their children until they reach voting age.

Watchdogs' pay ranges from £70,000 to £130,000

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

CLARE SPOTTISWOODE is head of one of the seven main watchdogs established to regulate privatised industries. Funded by the Treasury, they set price guidelines and other regulations for their industries and are in dialogue with — though they are not, they say, answerable to — the relevant government departments.

The pay of the regulators' director-generals is generally in line with the Grade

2 band of civil service managerial pay which, after a pay review body recommendation in February, was set at between £67,500 and £98,000. Technically, the regulators are not bound to set the pay level of their chiefs within this range but the banding is generally taken as the norm.

Although the Department of Trade and Industry, to whom Ofgas reports, will not confirm the pay level being sought by Ms Spottiswoode, it said she was appointed on a salary of £70,000. The Office of the Rail

Regulator pays its regulator John Swift — it does not use the term director-general — £131,000. Mr Swift, a QC, began a five-year contract in late 1993 and heads a staff of 125.

Ofel, the telecoms regulator, was established in 1984 with the Telecommunications Act. The present Ofel incumbent is Don Cruickshank, who earns an estimated £90,000. Ofel has 160 staff and in 1993-94 commanded a budget of £8.6 Ofwat, the Birmingham-based water regulator, will not divulge what Ian Byatt, its director-

general, is paid, except to confirm that it is in the broad Grade 2 civil service banding. He heads a staff of 160 and his budget for this year is £8.7 million. Professor Stephen Littlechild, chief at Ofel, the electricity regulator, earns between £90,000 and £100,000, according to the annual report, and is head of 222 staff. The newest regulator is Oflot, watchdog of the National Lottery. It pays director-general Peter Davis, with a staff soon to increase from 25 to 40, £80,000.

PETER TREWNO

Labour promises to advise rather than manage industry

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday pledged to ditch its traditional approach of intervening to control industry as it put forward new proposals to boost private-sector investment.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, made clear that a Labour Government would still set tough standards but it would "steer" and advise rather than try to manage and own industry as it had done in the past.

"The role for government will be different from that traditionally conceived in an Old Labour view," said Mr Brown. "Government will be a catalyst, sometimes steering rather than owning. It will set the rules and standards, not necessarily always provide the services," he said in a speech to businessmen in

London. "Our proposals are about good government rather than big government. It is a break from the old view that the only role for Government was as owner and controller and a break from the traditional assumption that everything has to be done by the public sector."

However, Mr Brown warned that he would not let any councils take advantage of projects to jeopardise Labour's determination to keep public spending under control. He made clear that all transactions would have to be transparent and councils would not be able to dodge the rules to boost capital spending.

Mr Brown said that the Government would be prepared to

ensure that the level of debt as a proportion of GDP would remain stable, he said.

"These rules must be applied in a transparent and open manner. Partnerships between public and private must not be seen as a way to dodge these rules, but as a way of encouraging the private sector to raise capital and manage projects, using its own particular skills," he said.

Mr Brown set out a number of new proposals to improve the prospect of joint deals between the public and private sectors. A Labour government would set priorities for public projects, he said.

Confusion and indecision had led to delays that meant the Government had missed the opportunity to build a new track for the high-speed



Shadow policy: John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Dawn Primarolo during a break in yesterday's conference

link — problems reflected across a range of essential projects.

It would also be prepared to make a firm financial commitment to individual projects. However, once a

deal had been struck there would be no guarantee of further government funding if the project ran into financial difficulties.

In addition, Labour would set up a task force, with

members with experience in both the public and private sector, to arrange investment agreements between the two sectors.

Mr Brown also proposes new measures to help the

private sector ensure against risk. He suggested that private firms could be allowed to insure with the Government to guard against changes in, for example, health and safety regulations.

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Britain uses war machine to wage political battle

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's response to the Bosnian Serbs' seizure of 33 members of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and one RAF officer as hostages was so dramatic in terms of troop numbers and firepower, it is not surprising that suspicions have been aroused about a possible secret plan to evacuate all the British troops.

However, with demands for tougher and reinforced action against the Bosnian Serbs coming from the five-nation Contact Group in The Hague on Monday and Nato foreign ministers in Noordwijk on Tuesday, it seems clear that withdrawal is not the secret motive behind such large British reinforcements.

For the first time since British troops were sent to Bosnia in November 1992, the Government can justifiably claim that there is a genuine national interest in becoming more involved in the conflict. The taking of 34 British hostages provoked both an emotional and political response from John Major and his Cabinet colleagues.

British defence and diplomatic sources said yesterday that the deployment of more than 6,000 extra troops, equipped with helicopters, artillery and anti-tank weapons,

was not driven by a military requirement but by a political desire to show the Serbs that Britain means business.

Although 24 Airmobile Brigade will provide Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the British United Nations commander in Bosnia, with a ready-made "rapid reaction" mobile reserve force, the prime purpose of this deployment is not to help out the UN but to protect British soldiers.

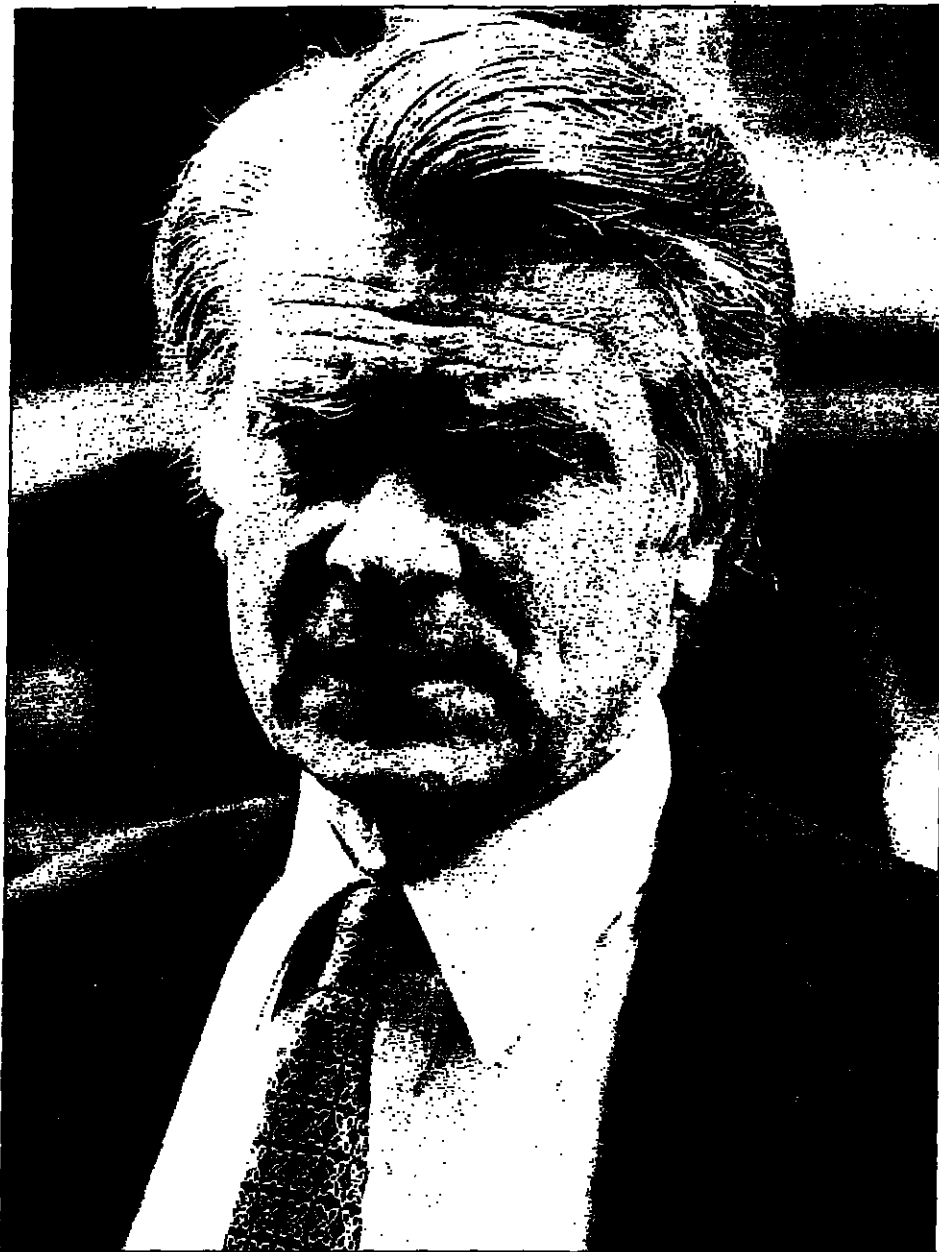
However, while the political signals were being underlined by Mr Major in the Commons yesterday, it remains less clear how the sending of so many extra troops will alleviate the current hostage crisis or ensure total safety for the troops in the future. Indeed, if the Serbs were to react by directly attacking British forces, there is a risk that the Government's decision could lead to more British casualties.

While the Government can expect sympathy and support for wanting to protect the British troops in Bosnia, the fact is that once 24 Airmobile Brigade is deployed, there will be more than 9,000 soldiers in the war zone, vulnerable to Serb gunners and snipers. There may be some Serb warlords spoiling for a fight, even if it means confronting

highly trained British troops. After the Prime Minister's Commons statement yesterday, the Serbs know that all the British reinforcements will be under UN command, which means that their response in a confrontation will have to be appropriate as peacekeepers.

Even with 24 105mm artillery pieces at their disposal, the airmobile brigade is not going to be in a position to launch a sustained barrage of shells against the Serbs in retaliation for a minor attack or the taking of more hostages. In other words, the Serbs will not be facing a new fighting force with orders from London to go on the offensive. The term "rapid reaction force" sounds tough and gives the impression that General Smith will be able to dispatch the heavily armed troops from one hot spot to another. However, under UN command, the brigade will have to act as a peacekeeping force.

If the UN mandate were to be changed the Serbs would have more to fear. Failing that, however, tough British reinforcements may look like the impact in Bosnia itself is going to be more political than military.



Lord Owen, who stepped down yesterday as the European Union's peace negotiator for former Yugoslavia, a post he had held for some three years

Owen comes to the end of a thankless road

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LORD OWEN, who yesterday resigned as the European Union peace negotiator for former Yugoslavia, has quit one of the world's most thankless and exhausting jobs.

During the three years since his appointment in the summer of 1992, he has made more trips to more towns in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia than any other statesman grappling with the intractable Balkan conflicts. On several occasions he almost won acceptance for a peace plan that he and Cyrus Vance, the former United Nations negotiator, drew up. Each time, however, it was blocked by the Bosnian Serbs.

In his first year, Lord Owen shuttled to and from Geneva, convening meetings of the leaders of the three warring factions, but they would never commit themselves to any agreement. When he proclaimed a "happy day in the Balkans" after persuading Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to agree in Athens to the Vance-Owen plan dividing Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous cantons, the Bosnian Serb parliament rejected the deal. This brought him to "within an inch" of resigning, but he was persuaded to stay by President Izetbegovic of Bosnia.

A year after Lord Owen's appointment, Mr Vance, a former American Secretary of

State and an old friend, resigned and was succeeded by Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway. However, both men were overshadowed by the formation of the five-nation Contact Group in March last year. Lord Owen, weary and disillusioned, played an ever less visible role. He told John Major and Douglas Hurd that he would leave at the end of the French presidency of the EU.

Mr Hurd yesterday paid generous tribute to Lord Owen. "He has soaked himself in the detail and mastered all the difficulties. No one could have been more ingenious or have worked harder to show those who are fighting a way out of this tragedy."

Lord Owen retained working relations with all the warring factions although he was increasingly resented by the Bosnian Muslims, who accused him of forcing them to accept humiliating losses. He had the confidence of the European nations but not of the European Parliament, which voted in January last year to dismiss him. He also had poor relations with the incoming Clinton administration, openly criticising Washington's calls to arm the Muslims and bomb the Serbs. France, as current holder of the EU presidency, will nominate a successor.

RAF officer added to list of captives

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ONE more British hostage was added to the list of United Nations personnel being held by the Bosnian Serbs when John Major disclosed in Parliament that an RAF officer was among the 350 or so UN troops detained against their will.

The RAF officer who is serving in Bosnia as a military observer is being held hostage at a Serb base in Blazug, west of Sarajevo. Of the 33 soldiers from the Royal Welch Fusiliers, eight are being held near Gorazde and 25 in Visegrad; six are in hospital recovering from their injuries received when their Saxon armoured vehicle was involved in an accident while they were being escorted out of Gorazde by the Serbs.

All the British hostages who have remained in radio contact are under orders to treat their captors in as friendly a way as possible and to be co-operative. The Ministry of Defence said: "They are not prisoners of war because we are not at war with anyone in Bosnia. We are there as peacekeepers. So there is no question of just giving name, rank and number as you would as a prisoner of war under Geneva Convention conditions."

Nor are the men expected to try to escape because of the risk that their Serb captors might open fire. Every soldier sent to Bosnia

receives training on how to conduct himself when dealing with the local militia and if detained by any of the warring parties. Soldiers are told to be fully aware of local sensitivities, a ministry official said.

The following Royal Welch Fusiliers are among those so far confirmed by their families as being held hostage by the Serbs: Fusilier Adrian Bains, 19, of Llanilyni, Gwynedd; Fusilier David Jones, 20, of Wrexham; Clwyd; Fusilier Mark Wright, 21, of Penryn, Cornwall; Fusilier Jonathan Richards, 21, of Enniscorthy, Wexford; Fusilier Lee Jones, 19, of Brynab, Wrexham; Fusilier Dale Evans, 20, of Ruddlan, Clwyd; Fusilier Justin Morgan, 21, of Bargoed, Mid Glamorgan; Fusilier Karl Frowen, 19, of Rumney, Cardiff; Fusilier Stephen Richards, 21, of Ystrad Mynach, Mid Glamorgan; Fusilier Steve McCabe, 21, of Cardiff; Fusilier Steven Cowap, 17, of Holyhead, Gwynedd; Fusilier Martin Williams, 19, of Holyhead; Corporal David Storey, 28, of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan; Sergeant Nicholas Warren, 28, of Llanedeyrn, Cardiff; Lance Corporal Glyn Scoble, 26, of Llanedeyrn; and Lance Corporal Lee Rees, 26, of Trimsaran, near Llanelli, Dyfed.

Envoy 'to be Foreign Minister'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BOSNIA'S charismatic ambassador at the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, whose flair for publicity has often exasperated British officials, is expected to be named as the country's new Foreign Minister.

Mr Sacirbey will replace Irfan Ljubijankic, who was killed when his helicopter was shot down by the Serbs near the Bosnian "safe area" of Bihać on Sunday. Born in Sarajevo in 1956, Mr Sacirbey emigrated to America at the age of 11 when his parents fled Yugoslavia as political refugees. He has worked as a lawyer and an investment banker in New York.

Austria war crimes trial clears Serb

FROM KREUTER IN VIENNA

A SALZBURG court acquitted a Bosnian Serb of genocide, murder and arson yesterday in Austria's first war crimes trial involving former Yugoslavia. Dusko Cvejckovic, 21, had denied any involvement in the killing of the Bosnian village of Knjeze in July 1992.

He was arrested in May last year in Salzburg after being recognised by a Bosnian who claimed he was a killer. A regional court hearing was halted in December when the three judges refused to accept the validity of the eight-month trial. The Supreme Court has ordered a new trial.

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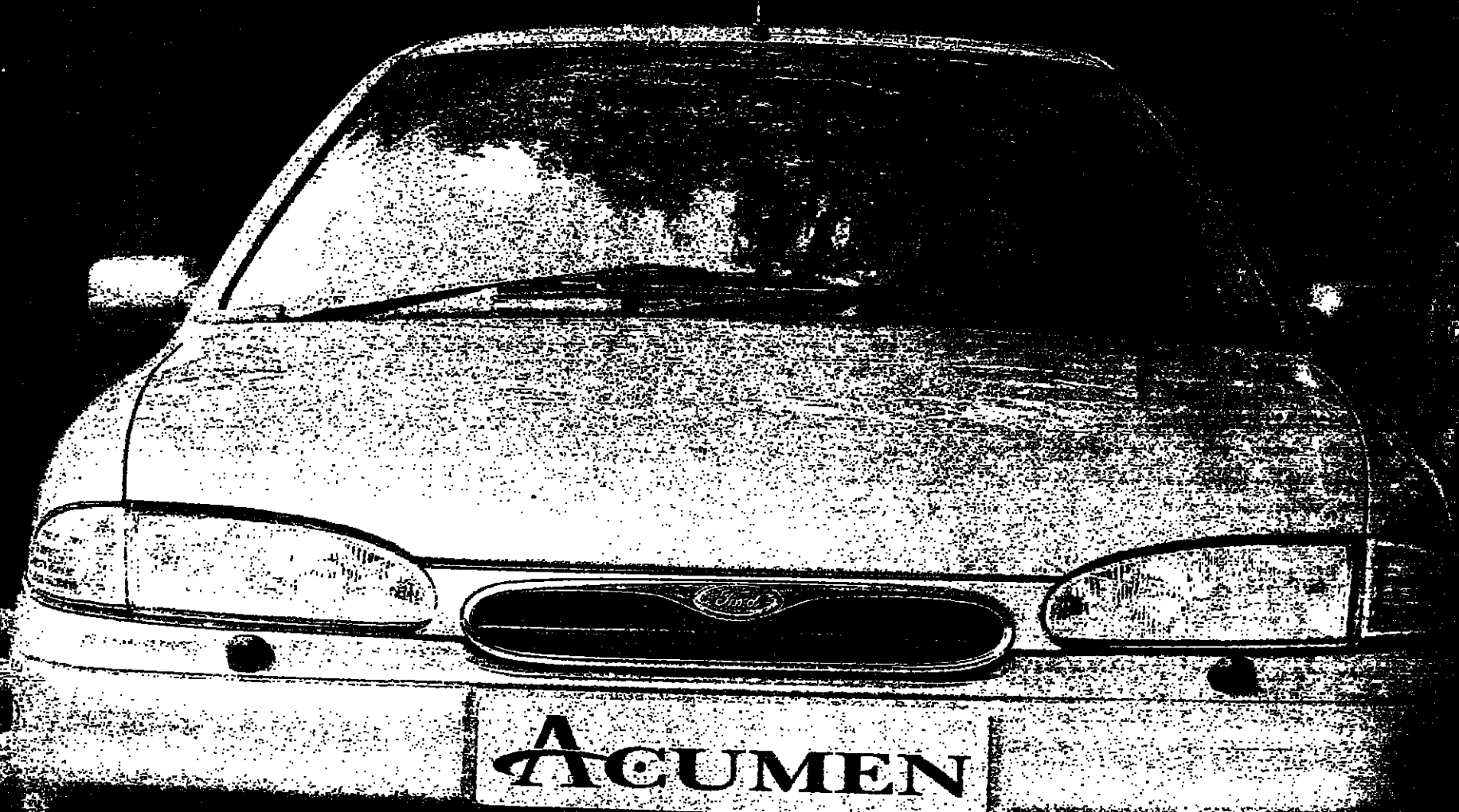
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Serb artillery and infantry attack Gorazde safe area

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

EMBOLDENED by indecision among Western powers, Serb troops attacked the Gorazde "safe area" yesterday, battling with Bosnian government troops and forcing British peacekeepers to their bunkers with mortar bombs.

Serb and government troops were also involved in a brief but fierce battle in Sarajevo, casting a pall over the already faltering United Nations mission.

Reports from Gorazde were sketchy because of the intensity of the fire, a UN spokesman said. By late yesterday officers in Sarajevo knew only that the British unit had spent the day in protected shelters and that mortars were landing "within 50 metres of the camp".

International officials in Gorazde reported to their headquarters that there had been a sharp deterioration in the area and that fighting had

been "heavy" on the outskirts of town. The Serbs appeared to be trying to draw their lines closer to populated areas, now about a mile away. The UN said the Serbs were using infantry, artillery and tanks in their push and that the government troops had resisted, relying on infantry and mortars. The Serb attack into the "safe area" highlighted the paralysis of the UN operation and the shortcomings of Britain's attempt to improve protection for its troops in Bosnia. The 350 British and 100 Ukrainian peacekeepers in Gorazde are there to police the Nato heavy weapons exclusion zone around the town and deter attacks on the safe area, neither of which they can do any longer.

The British gun batteries which began arriving in the region on Tuesday are far out of range of the gunners hitting Gorazde — the primary area

where Britain's peacekeepers need protection.

UN troops were sent to Gorazde a year ago, after Nato airstrikes and the promise of a wider bombing campaign by alliance jets halted a Serb rout of the pocket's defenders. Observers have long considered Gorazde the most likely flashpoint for a confrontation between government and Serb forces as well as between the Serbs and the West.

"It is surprising that we have avoided a crisis there for so long," one British officer said.

Sarajevo remained largely quiet after an intense, hour-long artillery, tank and mortar battle just before dawn yesterday. The heavy weapons battle was in open defiance of the ultimatum delivered by Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, that precipitated the latest stand-off.

Waiting for political direction from New York and Western capitals, the UN command indicated that it was not even considering more airstrikes. The hostage crisis, in its sixth day yesterday, has brought the operation to a virtual halt.

"The exclusion zone around Sarajevo is completely filled with heavy weapons," a senior UN official said. "All of our basic tasks are going unfulfilled now. It is not because of a lack of will from UNPROFOR, it is because of a sea change induced by the Serbs. Until we get some guidance from above, there's nothing we can do."

Lawrence Freedman, page 20
Leading article
and Letters, page 21



The cost of keeping peace in Bosnia

Numbers: The United Nations mission to Bosnia comprises more than 21,000 peacekeepers.

The main contributors are France, with about 3,800 soldiers; Britain, with 3,283, including 1,800 based in the Croatian port of Split; Pakistan, with 2,973; Malaysia, with 1,539; The Netherlands, with 1,485; Turkey, with 1,468; Spain, with 1,402; Bangladesh, with 1,239; Sweden, with 995; and Canada, with 801.

Other nations contributing peacekeeping troops are Ukraine, Russia, Egypt, Denmark, New Zealand, Jordan, Belgium and Norway. Several other nations have contributed unarmed United Nations military observers.

Fatalities: Of the 166 peacekeepers killed in the former Yugoslavia since 1992, 87 have died in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Forty-one have been killed on duty and 46 in accidents in Bosnia. The French have the

highest casualty toll, with 39 dead.

Captives: Following last week's Nato airstrikes on Bosnian Serb military targets, about 370 United Nations peacekeepers and unarmed military observers have been detained or are unable to escape cordons formed from units of the Bosnian Serb forces.

France has more than 170 soldiers being held as human shields or encircled by Serbs. More than 100 Canadian and Ukrainian troops have been taken hostage or are severely restricted in their movements.

Britain has 34 peacekeepers under Serb detention. In addition to the peacekeepers detained, 33 UN military observers are being held by the Serbs. They include soldiers from Finland, Sweden, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Poland, Spain, Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal and Pakistan.



Men of the 19th Regiment Royal Artillery prepare a 105mm gun at their headquarters yesterday before leaving to join other UN forces in Bosnia

British troops go through paces of war

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VITEZ

THE days when the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment were deployed on a variety of confidence-building tasks among the Croat and Muslim populations in the Ljuta Valley have ended. Those missions had bored the soldiers as much as they induced trust among the locals.

Now, the regiment has been regrouped into battle formation, complete with signals, engineer and medical support. With its Warrior fighting vehicles, it is the most heavily armed and armoured United Nations unit in the whole of former Yugoslavia.

More than 120 armoured vehicles, including 45 Warriors, crowd its base, a former school. They are equipped to move out at short notice, while the soldiers hone their skills through intensive training in assaults, battlefield first aid and mine-clearance.

In nearby Santic, after having left its base in Gorzj Vitez, is a squadron of the Household Cavalry, with an additional 27 armoured vehicles, including 15 Scimitars. As well as the integral small arms of each rifle platoon, the battle group has at its disposal 30mm cannons, 82mm mortars and Milan anti-tank

weapons. It can also rely on air support called in by forward air controllers.

With the imminent arrival in Split of a battery of six 105mm light guns from 19 Field Regiment, the battle group could soon have the last component in place. However, the battle formation is more suited to fighting a conventional war than serving the UN's humanitarian mandate, and it is all but inconceivable that they would be used in an offensive capability.

"We are not under any specific orders for any particular operational deployment at this time," said one British Army major yesterday, as the UN command continued to deal with its most immediate crisis — securing the release of the military hostages.

The British withdrawal from far-flung bases to the central Vitez location occurred on Friday as part of an exercise undertaken on the initiative of Lieutenant-Colonel Jeff Cook, the commanding officer. The exercise ended at the weekend, and the troops remain ready for an immediate operational deployment.

Various options are being considered, based on the need of other UN units, but nothing has been confirmed.

Why the UN's troops are sitting targets

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

SPORADIC and inconclusive reports on rebel Serb television are the only clues United Nations officials have to the whereabouts of 220 "Blue Helmets" being held by Bosnian Serbs.

"There are some people who we think we know where they are and there are some we don't have a clue about," said Aleksandr Ivankov, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo. The whereabouts of 152 UN soldiers who are held as virtual hostages, surrounded in isolated outposts in Serb territory and menaced by fighters and tanks, are known. In total, peacekeepers are being held in more than 20 locations.

The Bosnian Serbs under the leadership of Radovan

Karadzic have offered to release the hostages if the international community pledges to disavow the use of Nato air strikes against them.

But UN officials say that even if such an unlikely step were taken, the Serbs are unlikely to let the UN withdraw its forces from their territory. After earlier hostage crises, the UN and the Serbs came to tacit understandings that peacekeepers would be "fired" as long as a constant level of "Blue Helmets" was maintained on the rebel side of the line: a strategic reserve of hostages that the Serbs have brought into play in the latest stand-off.

UN officers say it is their reluctance to use force — the basis of peace-keeping — that has left well-trained soldiers at the

mercy of undisciplined Serb fighters. Privately, they blame the Security Council's attempts to make them both peacekeepers and peace-makers. Enforcing the peace in



Karadzic will trade strikes for hostages

Sarajevo and other "safe areas" with Nato air strikes has pushed the UN mission across the line from "neutral" to partisan combatants, if only in the perception of the Serbs.

That perception has been enough to precipitate a hostage stand-off that presents the West with perhaps its gravest crisis during the four-year dissolution of Yugoslavia. It is peace-keeping gone awry.

The very nature of the peacekeepers' confidence-building measures has made the Serbian switch to hostility remarkably easy. Some of the Serb troops who abducted British peacekeepers from their observation posts in Gorazde last Sunday had been to the UN positions many times before, as friends. When they came on Sunday afternoon, even suspicious British

soldiers could do little to protect themselves and still remain as peacekeepers.

"They had the drop on them," a British helicopter pilot said.

Even police officers are better situated to protect themselves. They have looser restrictions on when they can use force and can act on reasonable suspicion.

"Blue Helmets" cannot they must wait until they are attacked otherwise, in a war zone, they would quickly become combatants.

It was easy for ill-disciplined Serb fighters to round up UN soldiers — troop positions that make sense from a military perspective make little sense in peace-keeping. The whole point is to be as vulnerable as possible in an effort to bolster trust.

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Existing homeowners improve monthly finances by arranging new mortgage on phone

BY ANTHONY HILL

HOME OWNERS are missing out on savings of hundreds of pounds a year because they retain the outmoded idea that it is too difficult to switch mortgages.

In the past, home buyers would only see the point of changing their mortgage when they moved home. But now the competition among lenders is fierce and they are offering such tempting deals that transferring a mortgage can save a huge amount each month — and it does not have to be a painful process.

Just as telephone based companies revolutionised the buying of motor and home contents insurance, the telephone based mortgage deals are smoothing the path for homeowners who no longer see the sense in sitting tight with a more expensive rate than those on offer to "new" customers. More and more home owners are already checking exactly what they are paying and measuring that against what is on offer for remortgages.

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A survey in Your Mortgage magazine of 12 telephone mortgage providers awarded FMS top marks for its efficient service and helpfulness. After one free 15 minute phone call FMS can tell a homeowner exactly what it can offer, and all that remains are the formalities such as getting the survey and signing the documents.

"It must be worth 15 minutes of anyone's time to make savings that will go on month after month," said Nick Deutsch chief executive of FMS.

The company, which is jointly owned by the venture capital fund of a leading city

investment house and the management of FMS, is at the leading edge of mortgage developments.

FMS does not sell any sort of investment policies, it is not tied to any insurance company and does not take any commission if buyers want an endowment mortgage. So FMS is just as happy selling repayment loans as any other.

FMS will sell other lenders' products to fill any gaps in its own home loans range. For instance, it is one of the few places where you will find 100 per cent loans on offer. You can also opt for a capped rate where the rate can go down, but will not rise beyond the cap.

Borrowers with little spare cash can opt for fee-free deals. Avoiding application, legal and valuation fees can save around £700 for a home owner moving a £50,000 loan to FMS. There are no hidden catches such as having to buy a particular buildings and contents insurance package.

"It must be worth 15 minutes of anyone's time to make savings that will go on month after month."

Borrowers who do not mind paying up-front fees can choose loans with lower interest rates. Sometimes it will be worth paying even a stiff penalty to break free from a poor deal — especially a fix taken out when rates were higher. It is worth sitting down and working out the potential savings against the cost of terminating an existing mortgage before the penalty period has run its course.



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can be sure of their savings over an existing fix and are buying peace of mind that the cost of the mortgage will not increase during the life of the fix. FMS has one fix at 4.99 per cent (APR 5.4%) which runs to December 1996, and another at 7.49 per cent (APR 8.1%) to July 1998. The fee-free rates are 6.99 per cent (APR 7.4%) and 7.99 per cent (APR 8.5%).

But it also has a range of variable rate loans including attractive discounts. The variable rate is currently 7.39 per cent (APR 7.8%) well below the average variable rate of 8.44 per cent.

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Sakhalin anger over unsafe homes

Quake zone fears 'death trap' flats

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN NEFTYORSK

RUSSIA may be forced to begin a huge rehousing campaign for tens of thousands of inhabitants in the Far East, after this week's earthquake revealed that blocks of flats will become death traps in the likely event of future tremors.

As rescue workers continued their painstaking and increasingly futile search for any sign of human life in the rubble of this town's former residential area, local officials said that many more Russians living in the earthquake-hit Pacific region of Sakhalin were under threat.

"If it was up to me I would move every single person out of this type of building and into new accommodation," said Nati Yarulin, the Mayor of Ocha, 60 miles from the site of Sunday's disaster.

The notorious blocks in question are known as the "Khrushchevki", five-storey tenements built as part of a huge housing programme in the 1960s by Nikita Khrush-

A YOUNG couple, Alexandra and Sergei Rot, trapped by the earthquake, were on the verge of killing themselves when rescue workers finally heard their cries. "Sergei had found a piece of glass and we were going to cut our wrists," said Alexandra, 23. Their nine-month-old daughter was killed. (Reuters)

chev, the late Soviet leader. They were constructed at great speed, meeting the Soviet quotas quickly but with little attention paid to safety.

An inspection of the rubble, where two-thirds of Neftegorsk's 3,000 population still lie buried, revealed why the prefabricated buildings buckled. Cement slabs showed clear signs of crumbling over the years, many of the bolts holding the building together were corroded and often thin steel girders, supposed to rein-

force the concrete, had turned into a powdery black dust.

"There would not have been any victims if these homes had been built properly," said Ivan Martynov, 72, an injured pensioner, who survived the quake, but lost seven members of his family. "No one had a chance. These buildings were constructed so badly they just crumbled in seconds."

Many locals, however, are sceptical about Moscow's long-term commitment to help a remote corner of Russia on an expensive rehousing programme. "Moscow wants the Far East for its oil, gas, diamonds and timber, but without actually spending money on making sure we live properly," said one official who asked not to be named. His anger is, in part, due to the apprehension that another quake could hit the Pacific coastline, already struck twice this year with deadly results, at Kobe in Japan in January, and now at Neftegorsk.



A rescuer comforts a woman as others attempt to free her leg, trapped under the rubble of a ruined block of flats during Sunday's earthquake in Neftegorsk.

Moscow agrees to new security deal with Nato

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA formally agreed to a new security relationship with Nato yesterday that will guarantee consultation on key military and political issues.

However, in agreeing to form a special partnership, Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, warned the alliance to drop proposals to expand its membership to Central and East European countries.

The issue of Nato expansion is crucial to the alliance's strategy for the future but anathema to Moscow, which views such a policy as divisive and a potential threat to Russia's security.

Speaking after meeting Nato foreign ministers at Noordwijk in The Netherlands, Mr Kozyrev said hasty moves towards enlargement could threaten the establishment of "mutually advantageous and constructive" relations between Moscow and the alliance.

However, Mr Kozyrev's warning, one of many emanating from Moscow over the

past few months, did not spoil yesterday's historic moment when the Russian Foreign Minister finally announced that Russia would join the Partnership for Peace scheme and be provided a detailed programme of military and political co-operation.

A second document was also approved which lays down a "special relationship" between Nato and Russia. Under this arrangement for "enhanced dialogue", Russia will enjoy special benefits, including political consultation on key issues such as nuclear proliferation. Russia will effectively become an ad hoc member of the alliance but will not have power of veto over Nato decision-making.

Although there was no official signing yesterday, the two new agreements were hailed as a significant step in the new post-Cold War era. Twenty-five other nations, including all of Russia's former allies in the Soviet bloc, have already joined the Partnership for Peace scheme.

Russian general resigns over cuts

FROM TOM DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA's most popular general, Aleksandr Lebed, threw down a challenge to Moscow yesterday by announcing that he was resigning as commander of the 14th Army. The move could clear his way to campaign for the presidency next year.

Colonel Mikhail Bergman, his closest aide, said from the 14th Army's headquarters at Tiraspol in Moldavia that the general had handed in his resignation after a tense meeting with Mikhail Kolesnikov, Chief of the General Staff, in which they argued over army cuts. "Lebed reminded Kolesnikov that the State Duma had asked the President not to touch the 14th Army, but Kolesnikov would not budge and Lebed had no choice but to offer his resignation," Colonel Bergman said.

Since, according to opinion polls, General Lebed is the favourite general among soldiers, he could make a strong showing in next June's presidential elections. He has made no secret of his contempt for Russia's top politicians and last month told a Moscow newspaper: "I do not intend to serve under fools and criminals any longer."

Amnesty condemns Iran for killings

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

TENS of thousands of suspected government opponents have been executed in Iran in the past 16 years, Amnesty International said in a report denouncing the country's "gross human rights violations".

Iran is also criticised for attempting to hide its "appalling record from outside scrutiny". Amnesty's 17-page report says that political prisoners — most of whom are denied access to lawyers — have spent up to ten years "linguishing in jail in appalling conditions before relatives knew where they were".

It cites the case of Abbas Amir Entezam, a former Deputy Prime Minister of the provisional government of Mehdi Bazargan, who was arrested in 1979 and charged with spying for the United States. "I spent 15 months in prison before I was told why," Mr Entezam said in a letter last year. "I was repeatedly beaten ... and a number of times I was told that my execution was imminent."

The allegations were dismissed yesterday by Iran's state news agency, IRNA, which accused the London-based group of being an "American tool".

Chinese dissidents plead for freedom

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

YU ZHIJIAN, a Chinese dissident who said he believed that Mao Tseung was a criminal and who received a life sentence for throwing eggs at the former leader's portrait in the run-up to the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989, appealed yesterday to the Chinese Parliament for his release or better prison conditions.

As Chinese authorities, anxious about possible unrest at the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre approach, enforced a security clampdown on the capital, Mr

Yu smuggled a handwritten note also signed by 16 other prisoners to the National People's Congress.

Mr Yu defended his act of political dissent, recalling the horrors of the Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s, when millions died of famine, and the 1966-68 Cultural Revolution, now officially described as the "ten years of madness".

□ Hong Kong: The New York-based human rights organisation, Human Rights Watch Asia, says President Clinton should refuse to visit China until its human rights record improves.

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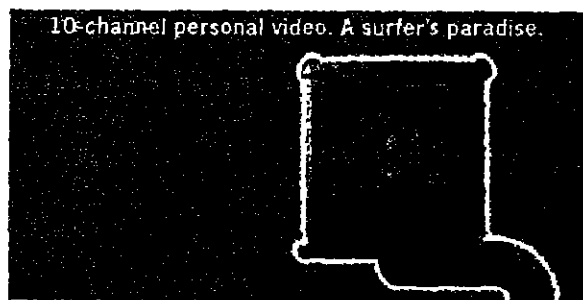
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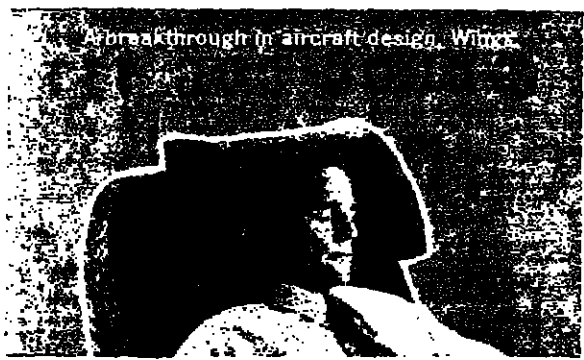


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Waco hearings to focus on role of Attorney-General

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE US Congress begins hearings next month into the Waco siege, amid increasing evidence there were few hard facts to sanction the government raid on the Branch Davidian sect in Texas two years ago. More than 80 members of the cult died in the events surrounding the raid.

Inspired in large part by the Oklahoma City bombing, which took place on the second anniversary of the Waco action and has renewed anti-federalist sentiments over the way it was handled, the hearings will focus on why Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, approved the raid with tanks and CS gas.

Congressional investigators examining the 51-day siege, which ended on April 19, 1993 when a fire killed the cult members, including 24 children,

ren, say there is no proof to support FBI claims at the time that youngsters inside the compound were being abused physically and sexually.

Miss Reno, in her first month at the Justice Department, had agreed to the raid mainly because she believed that children were being beaten. "I thought there was evidence of child abuse and got the clear impression that at some point since the FBI had assumed command and control of the situation, they had learnt that the Branch Davidians were beating babies," she said later. "I now understand that nobody in the bureau told me it was ongoing. We were briefed and I misunderstood."

In fact, the FBI's briefing book, compiled on the final weekend before the raid, men-

tioned allegations by former members of the cult of child abuse by David Koresh, its leader, and his belief that girls in their teens were "potential wives", but there was no evidence of abuse going on at the time.

Dr Bruce Perry, chief of psychiatry at Texas Children's Hospital and the head of a crisis team that took charge of 21 children released from Waco during the stand-off with federal agents, has concluded in his report that "the children released from Ranch Apocalypse do not appear to have been victims of sexual abuse or of physical sexual abuse severe enough to warrant state intervention".

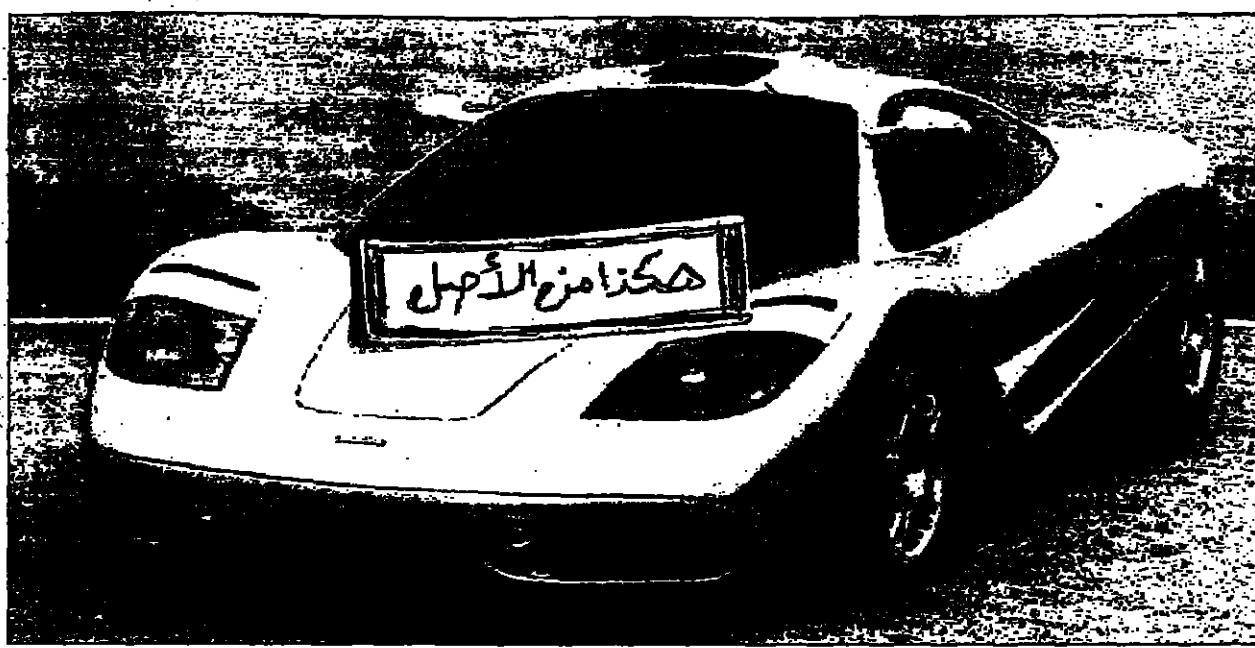
The hearings in the House of Representatives are to be chaired by Bill McCollum, of Florida, and Bill Zeff, of New Hampshire, both Republicans who have said they will also review other tactics employed by federal agents, including the firing of hundreds of rounds of tear gas into the camp at Mount Carmel. The wooden structures were filled with gas for six hours before the buildings erupted into flames. The Geneva Conventions prohibit the use of the gas in warfare.

Although the Senate has called for separate hearings, the House Republicans have said they will also investigate other actions by the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, not least the raid on the Idaho home of Randall Weaver, a white separatist, in which three people died.

"Pages of questions have been drawn up on Waco and other areas and the members are looking to get some answers," a congressional staff member said yesterday. "They particularly want to know who told Miss Reno that kids inside the compound were in danger, when and in what circumstances."

Peter Smerick, the FBI's chief criminologist, wrote four memorandums to senior FBI officials, during March 1993 warning them that a confrontational approach might inspire calls for a mass suicide from Koresh. He says now that agents persuaded him to change his advice on how to resolve the situation and a fifth memorandum included changes that amounted to an endorsement of the raid.

The Justice Department acknowledged this week the importance of the Waco hearings for all concerned. Congress hopes that the truth will be made clear so as to deprive the anti-government zealots in the militia of their power to recruit converts.



The £630,000 McLaren F1 supercar, above, is capable of 231mph. Bernhard Pischetsrieder, right, the chief executive of BMW, crashed one at the weekend

BMW boss crashes supercar

A McLaren F1 supercar, capable of 231mph, has been written off by Bernhard Pischetsrieder, the boss of BMW. The car ended in a ditch. Confirming German newspaper reports, a BMW spokesman said that Herr Pischetsrieder, his wife and a friend escaped with minor

injuries from the weekend smash. The accident happened on a remote road 40 miles east of Munich. Herr Pischetsrieder, 47, is known to enjoy a fast drive.

The car, which is built in very small numbers by the British Formula One racing team, McLaren, is powered

by a 12-cylinder, 48-valve BMW engine and accelerates from 0-60mph in 3.2 secs, or 0-200mph in 23 secs. It costs £630,000.

A Frankfurt businessman lost control of another F1 as he drove at 170mph along an autobahn last week and hit the central crash barrier.



Banda too unwell to appear at his trial

Harare: Dr Hastings Banda, the former President of Malawi, is too feeble to appear in court on charges of plotting the assassination of political rivals 12 years ago, but his trial will go ahead without him. He is in his nineties (Jan Raath writes).

In the High Court in Blantyre yesterday, Judge Mackson Mkwandawire accepted a medical report that says Dr Banda is not fit enough to appear and will not be able to understand the proceedings or defend himself. But the judge ordered the former leader to be tried in his absence. He set no date for the trial to start.

Israeli brothels

Tel Aviv: An upsurge of prostitution has prompted a Knesset committee, despite religious opposition, to recommend that Tel Aviv should be given Israel's first legalised "red light district".

Poll cancelled

Simferopol: Parliament in Ukrainian Crimea, accepting the Ukrainian authorities' demands, has cancelled a referendum in support of a constitution Kiev had declared separatist. (Reuters)

Sentence upheld

Santiago: Chileans cheered after a court upheld prison sentences on two secret police chiefs convicted of the 1976 killing of Orlando Letelier, a foe of Augusto Pinochet, the former dictator. (AP)

Child nun dies

Peking: Sherab Ngawang, 15, a Tibetan Buddhist nun who had been imprisoned by the Chinese since she was 12, has died as a result of a beating, the London-based Tibet Information Network said. (AP)

Tables turned

Islamabad: A man has asked the Pakistani human rights organisation to help him obtain a divorce because his wife allegedly keeps beating him up when he asks her to cook or clean the house. (AFP)

Outsiders stalk White House

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AT LEAST four prominent Americans are threatening to cause havoc in next year's presidential elections by running as third-party or independent candidates.

Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire, Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights leader, Patrick Buchanan, the conservative commentator, and Lowell Weicker, the former Connecticut Governor, are all saying they may challenge the two main party candidates if the Democrats and Republicans ignore their agendas. There is also speculation that Colin Powell will run as an independent, although the former leader of the American armed forces has said nothing publicly.

Mr Perot won 19 million votes in 1992 and polls indicate that between half and two-thirds of Americans now favour the creation of a third party. Mr Perot, an ardent protectionist, has invited President Clinton and all the Republican candidates to address a national conference of United We Stand America, his pressure group, in Dallas in August. He will then decide whether to convert the group into a fully fledged third party. Mr Perot handed Mr Clinton the White House in 1992 by splitting the Republican vote and the President's advisers are praying that he will run again.

Mr Jackson, who has fought two presidential campaigns,

has been threatening all year to run, and at a meeting of his National Rainbow Coalition last weekend angrily accused the Democratic Party of slighting its black supporters. "We do not intend to be ignored, taken for granted, pushed off and exploited any longer," he said.

Whether Mr Jackson is serious remains to be seen. He knows that by depriving Mr Clinton of the black vote he would ensure a Republican White House. However, an increasing number of blacks see little point in continuing to back the Democrats, and believe they could wield more influence by forming their own party.

Mr Buchanan is a Republican candidate, but said last weekend that he might run independently if the party sponsored his outright opposition to abortion and extremely conservative social agenda. An estimated 20 per cent of Republican activists are members of the religious Right and no Republican nominee could afford to lose their support.

Mr Weicker, Connecticut's pugnacious independent Governor until his retirement last January, said he might run as an independent because he feels the Republicans, his old party, have moved too far to the right. "If I feel I can contribute to the national debate, I'll do it. I'm not bowled over by the proposition," Mr Weicker, a social liberal, said.

Brussels prepares for ecu lift-off

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

THE introduction of the European single currency will be like launching a rocket into space, the European Commission said yesterday. Once the boosters have been ignited, "there will be no turning back".

Brussels is now more committed than ever to the introduction of the new money. Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said: "Unveiling the Commission's 'green paper' on the technical preparations for economic and monetary union. Mr Santer insisted that debate over the name for the new currency should not become an obstacle to its introduction. "We know that by the end of the century Europe will have a single currency. For our part we are sticking to the name 'ecu'," he said.

The "green paper" sets out for the first time the Commission's ideas on how the transition should be handled, and what obstacles need to be tackled. It will be submitted to national governments for their approval at the EU summit in Cannes in June. The document will be accompanied by one of the biggest publicity campaigns yet mounted by Brussels, designed to convince the EU's 370 million citizens that they will be better off with a common currency.

Once a majority of the EU's 15 member states have met a series of national economic targets, monetary union could begin by 1997 and become mandatory in 1999 for those countries which meet the targets, excluding Britain and Denmark, which negotiated a single currency opt-out.

Defending the length and complexity of the proposed four-year transition phase, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner, said: "We cannot have too tight a timetable or the rocket will return to Earth without achieving what it set out to do."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

Cree rapist banished to bleak lake

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

THE centuries-old Cree Indian practice of banishment has been accepted this week as a fitting punishment for a convicted rapist by a Canadian court in Saskatchewan.

William Bruce Taylor, 28, a member of the Lac La Ronge first nations band, will be taken to a heavily wooded, isolated and deserted island in the middle of Lac La Ronge and left there for a year to fend for himself. He will be given snares and fishing equipment and a tent but no firearms and must build his own shelter and feed off the land. He will have a radio in case of an emergency and will be visited every two weeks to make sure he is still there and still alive.

Judge James Milligan, of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, accepted the Cree's proposal of banishment as the punishment. Taylor will also be required to serve three years' probation.

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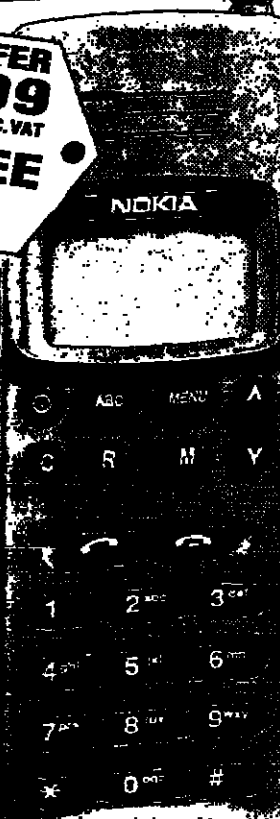
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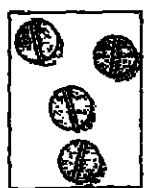
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Antibiotics are back in favour with dermatologists □ Hidden dangers of a stabbing □ Why a would-be father should quit smoking



MORE than 35 years ago, when I was a houseman working in paediatrics, my chief, Dr Andrew Barlow, would often advocate the use of antibiotics as well as steroid creams in the treatment of childhood eczema. The ward round would stop by the cot of some sleepless, tearful toddler who, despite steroids and antipruritic drugs, had been tearing at his or her itching skin until it was raw and bleeding. After an examination and discussion, antibiotics would be prescribed and, amazingly, by the time of the consultant's next ward round two or three days later, the child was often well on the way to recovery.

The practice of medicine never stays still, but it does sometimes go round in circles. *General Practitioner* magazine has recently reported a meeting in London where GPs were advised by specialists in dermatology to treat exacerbations of eczema in children with antibiotics as well as steroids. This opinion was supported by a spokesman of the British Association of Dermatologists.

The doctors were told that although childhood eczema might not appear to be infected with bacteria, it usually was, and that toxins produced by those bacteria caused an antigenic reaction which made the rash and skin irritation very much worse.

The bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*, the organism which is often responsible for the nastier boils and septic spots, could invariably be cultured from weepy, oozing eczema, and also in



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

Full circle on eczema

nine out of ten cases in whom the eczema appeared to be dry. More unexpectedly, the same organism was found living on apparently healthy patches of skin in eight out of ten patients who had eczema elsewhere on their body.

The spokesman for the British Association of Dermatologists said that he would welcome greater use of antibiotics, and his association would back GPs prescribing them routinely in cases of eczema.

A spokesman for the National Eczema Society said: "The use of antibiotics is always a decision

which should be taken by a doctor. We tend to give more general advice to parents of children with eczema."

She stressed the need to establish a good general skin-care routine, keeping it well hydrated with moisturisers, particularly by adding oils to the bath.

The society also recommends soap substitutes rather than soap for washing; aqueous cream is often found to be adequate when cleaning young children.

Parents are also encouraged to assess the general lifestyle of the household, and to cast a suspicious eye at any furry pet which at best could be a bit of a nuisance. Temperature control too is important: dressing children in layers of cotton rather than in heavier material is a useful trick, because children with eczema readily overheat.

The society supports the use of steroids, but only when the eczema is apparent, and then they should be used with sufficient vigour to keep the eczema at bay. This treatment, too, should be under the direction of the doctor.

© The National Eczema Society is at 163 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BU

Deep wound



THE stabbing of John Mills, the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions, illustrates an early lesson that every medical student learns. It was initially thought by bystanders that Mr Mills's abdominal wound was relatively superficial, but after he had been admitted to hospital the decision was taken to explore it so that its full extent could be assessed.

Stab wounds to the abdomen often appear deceptively trivial, but any knife wound to it other than the merest skin scratch needs examination under an anaesthetic. All too often the weapon has not only penetrated the peritoneum, the sac in which the guts lie, but may also have damaged the organs contained within it.

In either event if the casualty officer only stitches the superficial cut, and leaves the damaged deeper tissues unrepaired, severe infection and peritonitis will certainly follow. Even superficial

penetrating wounds need antibiotics, whether they are inflicted by a misdirected garden fork, a dog's tooth or a mugger's knife.

This is not surprising when it is considered that despite the care taken over sterility with a surgeon's scalpel, infection still occasionally occurs. So it follows that trouble is almost inevitable if the instrument which did the damage had been hanging in the garden shed, or resting in a lout's trouser pocket.

Slow sperm



THE troubles which can be caused by women smoking either before or, more particularly, during pregnancy are well known. Babies born to smoking mothers are smaller and frequently fail to catch up after delivery. Smoking is also associated with an increased risk of abortion, stillbirth and neonatal death. Nicotine crosses the placenta barrier and after delivery enters the breast milk; it is also suggested

that the children may be less intelligent, but this effect is hard to evaluate as often other sociological factors are present which can confuse the statistics.

The *Journal of Andrology* has recently reported that the damage done by smoking to men's reproductive capacity may be even more fundamental. Research workers in both Japan and the United States have compared the sperm of smokers and non-smokers. Although they found no difference in the actual sperm counts between the two groups, the quality of the sperm varies appreciably. The sperm of smoking men are more likely to be sluggish and less purposeful in the way they swim, more likely to be abnormal and, presumably as a result, less likely to fertilise an ovum.

The Japanese reported that they have discovered how smoking damages the health of sperm — they are adversely affected by cotinine, a breakdown product of nicotine. Nicotine is metabolised in the liver to give rise to cotinine and nicotine-N-oxide; these metabolites are eventually excreted in the urine, but not before they have damaged the sperm.

The victims of their own defences

In the three months of the Gulf War, only 271 lives were lost of the 500,000 US troops deployed in Operation Desert Storm. More remarkable, only just over half of these were killed in action, the remainder dying from accidents, firearm injuries, suicides or friendly fire.

Such unintentional casualties during armed conflict are comparable to the damage caused by the group of illnesses known as the autoimmune diseases, where the body's own defence forces — its immune system — inadvertently injure healthy cells.

This analogy between a real-life army and the immune system is quite compelling: both must be prepared for events that may never happen, be able to function against selected targets, draw on past experience in combating contemporary threats, and are made up of specialised divisions, each directed to achieving a common goal.

In a new book, appropriately entitled *Friendly Fire* (Oxford University Press, £17.99), two experts on autoimmune diseases — David Isenberg, Professor of Rheumatology at University College, London and John Morrow, senior lecturer at St Bartholomew's Hospital, further elaborate on this military analogy. Patrol-

When the immune system targets

healthy cells

serious damage

can result, says

Dr James Le Fanu

ling macrophages "seize on intruding invaders" such as bacteria and viruses, and then hand them over to the lymphocyte B-cells — "the front-line infantry of the immune system" whose bullets, or antibodies, shoot the enemy full of holes. Their corpses are then dissolved by the enzymes of the blood serum and disposed of by white blood cells.

This process is co-ordinated at "military HQ" by another type of lymphocyte — the T-cell — which directs the immune response and also tones it down when the danger is past.

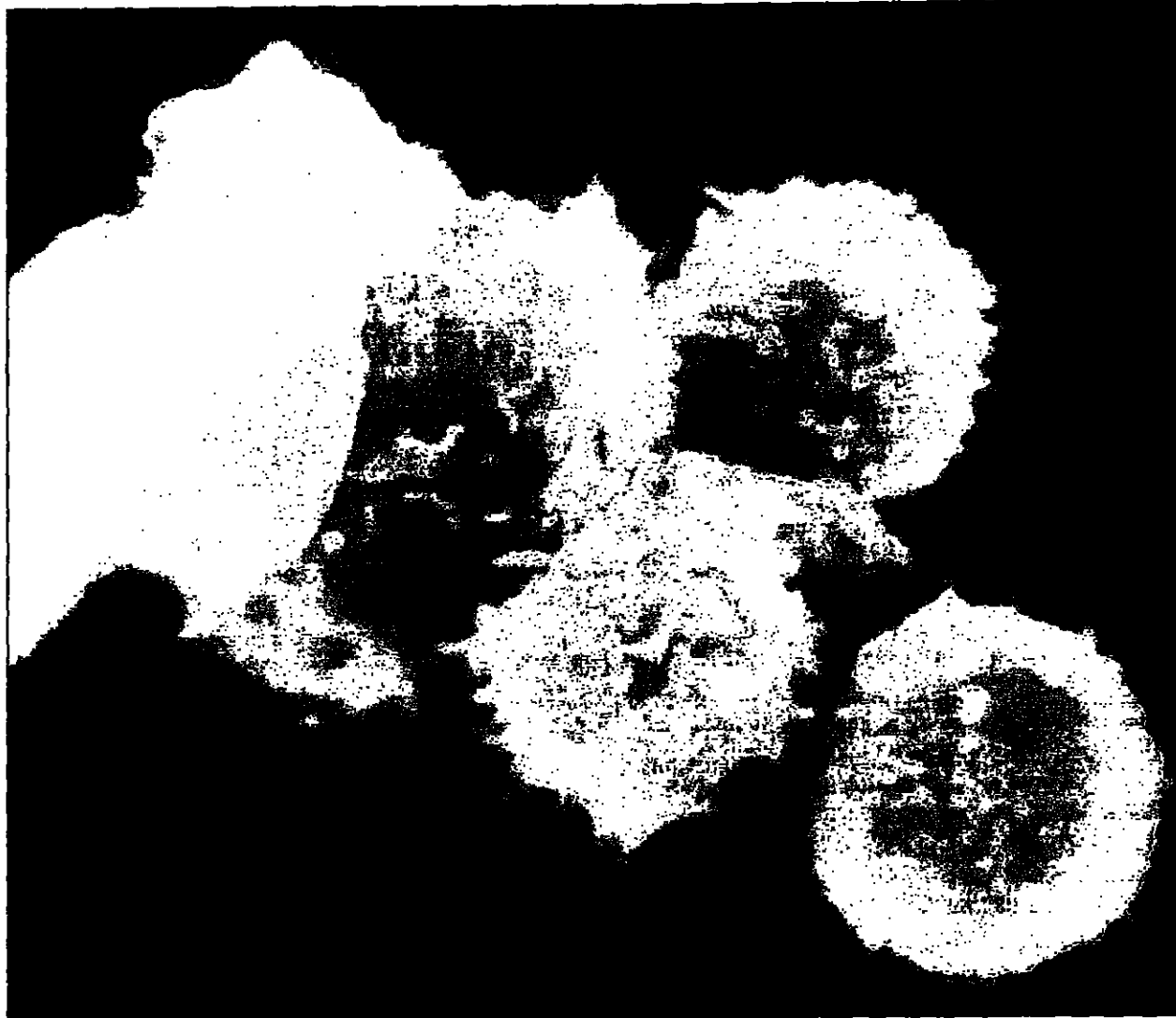
It is only because the natural world is so much more subtle and complex than anything conceived by man that the military metaphor breaks down. Our daily struggle against invading bacteria and viruses is not so much like Operation Desert Storm, with its readily distinguishable ar-

mies, as Bosnia, where it is difficult to identify the enemy from the local population. When the immune system fails to make this distinction the predictable result is self-destructive damage from friendly fire.

The first disease in which this was found to occur — involving the thyroid gland — was discovered only as recently as 1956, and in the subsequent four decades a further 20 have been added to the list, including diseases of the liver (primary biliary cirrhosis and chronic active hepatitis), of the nervous system (multiple sclerosis and myasthenia), and of the blood cells (pernicious and haemolytic anaemia). In addition, some well-known diseases involving several tissues and organs, such as rheumatoid arthritis, have been found to be due to friendly fire.

The central feature in all these illnesses is that the immune system confuses "non self" with "self", as a result of which the B-cells manufacture antibodies against the self — auto antibodies — which attack healthy blood cells, liver cells, nerve cells and so on.

The classic model of how this might happen is illustrated by rheumatic fever, where antigenic markers on the surface of the streptococcus bacterium closely resemble



A healthy immune system in action: one of three rounded killer T-lymphocyte cells (right) attacks an infected cell

markers on the surface of the heart valves. Thus the antibodies produced by the B-cells in response to a streptococcal sore throat not only punch holes in the invading organism, but also damage the heart valves, causing an inflammatory action that either renders them tight or incompetent, necessitating their replacement in later life.

Great effort has gone into trying to identify similar precipitating infections as the cause of other autoimmune diseases, but with regrettably little success. Certainly antibodies to another bacterium, *proteus mirabilis*, are present in a large percentage of pa-

tients — if not all — with rheumatoid arthritis, but most immunologists seem to believe that the evidence that they are primarily responsible is less than compelling.

Research into the underlying mechanisms of autoimmunity has been more successfully directed at identifying several often subtle problems with the immune response itself that, cumulatively, might result in self-destruction.

Thus it appears we all produce some autoantibodies against healthy cells, but they tend to bind weakly and so cause no damage. By contrast, those produced in the course of an autoimmune disease grip

on tightly and are difficult to budge. There are also problems at military HQ when the T-lymphocytes responsible for tuning down the immune response after the threat has passed — the T-suppressor cells — are relatively ineffective.

Yet another abnormality has been found in the blood serum leading to a failure

adequately to dissolve the corpses of cells destroyed by antibodies, so they cannot be disposed of by the white blood cells.

So, as with the friendly fire of armed conflict, autoimmunity is rarely traceable to a single precipitating mistake, but rather arises from a series of miscalculations and misfortunes leading to the issuing of

faulty orders. In patients with rheumatoid arthritis, for example, they may or may not be exposed to previous infections, but for the disease to get hold they must also have the right, or rather wrong, genetic constitution, with a typical combination of antigenic markers on their own cells. They also have an abnormality of their B-cells producing a faulty antibody, while the messages being sent from the T-cells may be garbled.

The clear advantage of being able to identify a specific precipitant like the streptococcus in rheumatic fever is that it is readily treatable with penicillin, so the immune system does not need to produce the antibodies which also inadvertently damage the heart valves.

Mostly, though, there is no alternative other than to take a blunderbuss approach and control friendly fire by suppressing the whole of the immune system that generates it, using drugs such as steroids or the anti-cancer drug, methotrexate. The risk of such an approach is obviously that it weakens the defence forces.

For the past 20 years immunologists have sought a more refined technique that might selectively pick off the part of the immune system most responsible for friendly fire. The ingenious proposals involve metaphorical undercover agents, and include encouraging the B-cells to make antibodies against aberrant T-cells that are sending the wrong messages. Regrettably this stratagem, though applicable to man-made conflicts such as the Gulf War, has so far failed to be generally applicable to the much more complex world of our immune systems.

© Dr James Le Fanu is a GP in south London

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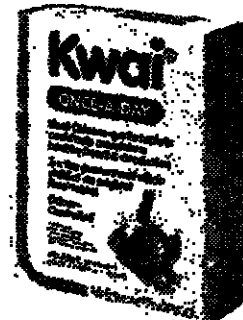
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Born under the cloud of Chernobyl

Among the legacies of the Chernobyl disaster of April 1986 has been the proliferation of absurd claims. These achieved a surreal level at the time of this year's anniversary, when Ukrainian officials reportedly claimed that 125,000 people had died as a result of the radiation released.

It turned out that this was the total of all deaths in the affected area since the accident. But it was not the first time that the real victims of Chernobyl had been exploited to attract Western investment or sympathy. Next Tuesday's *Network First* (ITV, 10.40pm) tells the tale of Igor Pavlovets, a child from Belarus born deformed after the accident.

His case is a tragic one, but what evidence is there to link it to Chernobyl? Carlton's publicity for the programme asserts that "over one million children" are deformed like Igor as a result of the accident. A sample survey of 500 children in Minsk, it says, has found only one to be completely healthy. But this may be a reflection of the poor health of Russian children in general and unconnected to the disaster at Chernobyl.

It may seem harsh to insist on proper evidence in the face of misery, but only by doing so can the real causes of ill-health be properly addressed. In today's issue of *Nature*, Dr Valerie Beral of the Imper-

ial Cancer Research Fund and a team from two Ukrainian scientific institutes examine the data on cancer of the thyroid, by far the most likely prompt response to a nuclear accident. Iodine-131 is a major part of the radioactive releases, contaminates grass, is eaten by cows, and finds its way into milk.

Since it is concentrated in the thyroid, that is where it is likely to cause damage, and children are at greater risk because their thyroids are smaller and they drink more milk.

The figures do indeed show an increase in cases. In the whole of the Ukraine, there were eight cases of thyroid cancer in children under 15 in 1986, 11 in 1989, and 42 in 1993. The data

shows the risks are greatest among those who were living nearest to the plant. There is no evidence of increased risk in children born after 1986, which is to be expected because iodine-131 decays relatively rapidly. Neither is there any evidence, Dr Beral says, of increases in any other form of cancer.

Figures like these are no argument for complacency, but they do provide perspective. The actual evidence so far cannot possibly justify the wilder claims that have been made. Even a disaster needs to be kept in perspective.

NIGEL HAWKES

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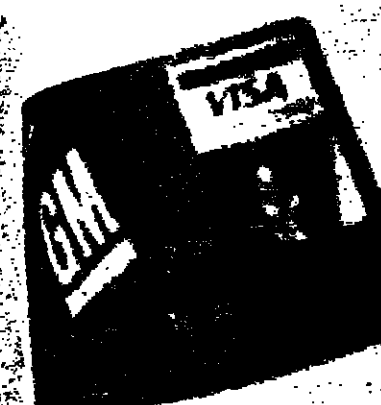
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George Hill tells of his feelings of devastation over the loss of the *Maria Asumpta*

'I was part of that crew — I can barely believe the tragedy'

For the want of a nail, the ship was lost. A momentary malfunction close to a lee shore in a previously reliable and lovingly-overhauled engine, and the brig *Maria Asumpta* was smashed to matchwood on the rocks at Padstow, with three of her crew drowned.

Tuesday's disaster was a special shock to me, as I had left the ship only 24 hours earlier, and the ground even now is still swaying faintly under my feet with the motion of the vessel that no longer exists. If my boss at the Ramblers' Association had answered the phone that afternoon and let me accept Mark Litchfield's invitation to stay on board and lend an extra hand, I would have been with the ship when she foundered.

It is hard for me to imagine that that hopeful and vigorous community, the *Maria Asumpta's* crew, has been so suddenly dispersed, with three of its members dead. The shared labour and urgency of action on a sailing ship quickly knit the crew together. As one of a group of members of Mariners' International, who had helped to bring the ship out to sea from Gloucester at the start of her busy summer programme, which was to have taken her to Spain and France, I already felt to some degree part of that community.

On the *Maria Asumpta's* last-but-one passage, from the Devon coast northwards to the Mumbles, spirits were high even though we had been frustrated by contrary gales in our attempt to press on south to Padstow. The permanent crew were happy to be free at last of the long earthenbound labour of fitting out, restorations and surveys.

No longer plunging into a head wind, we were carrying a press of sail in a following breeze. In the cavernous mess-room, framed from gnarled timbers a century or more old, and hung on all sides with

hammocks, Emily MacFarlane, who died in the wreck, sat at the table with another young crew member. They had put out a row of glasses along the table, and filled them with water to strike different notes. They gaily rapped out scales and tunes on them with spoons, giggling foolishly, till they drove the rest of us mad.

Emily was an art student on a working holiday, and had a mass of brown curls which the wind kept blowing across her face so that it was a mystery how she could see out. She threw herself energetically into the above-decks work of the ship, scorning the traditional feminine identification with the galley.

Ann Taylor, 50, was one of those active women who chose a new life once family responsibilities grow less pressing. She joined the vessel briefly as cook a season or two ago, and was so stable and reliable that Mark Litchfield had invited her back on a long-term basis. She gave up a well-paid job in public relations, to the bafflement of her employer, to cast in her lot with the *Maria Asumpta*, in effect as ship's secretary. She had an air of quiet satisfaction with a life decision that had brought her to an environment that many would find intolerable.

Assigned to the unskilled function of lookout, I spent much of that last-but-one run perched on the foredeck as it rose to the swell like a steep-chaser, singing songs under my breath out of the sheer joy of being one of the company of the prettiest and most historically evocative ship sailing anywhere in the world. Ann and one or two others were chatting just behind me. Later, she said to me: "You and your singing, George — I can't get *The Ash Grove* out of my head."

The third casualty, John Shannon, 24, an Australian,



At sea with the *Maria Asumpta* — days ago she was one of the prettiest and most historically evocative ships afloat.

was one of the ship's engineers. He was a quiet and conscientious crew member.

Inevitably, and rightly, the loss of the *Maria Asumpta* will be subject to a long process of inquiry. I am not qualified to comment on the issues involved. But I can attest to the meticulous care that was lavished on the ship by a crew devoted to her, and to the tireless efforts of Mark Litchfield to watch over every aspect of structure and navigation, and to safeguard a vessel brought back from dereliction largely through his efforts. In the dock at Sharpness,

before we headed out into the open sea, 'life had called' us together and personally demonstrated the use of safety equipment improved and reinforced during the winter. We little thought how soon it would be brought into use.

The ship had been surveyed weeks before, to qualify for the Department of Transport's new code of practice for passenger-carrying vessels up to 24 metres in length — a certificate that was on the point of being granted.

It will be the second time that Mr Litchfield has gone through the ordeal of a ship's

loss and all the subsequent grief and anger. He was joint owner of the barque *Marques*, which foundered off Bermuda in 1984 with the loss of 19 lives. The subsequent enquiry exonerated the owners from significant blame.

Tragedy like this always raises the question: are these ships safe? Is it responsible to let people go to sea in craft encumbered by an obsolete technology?

Crewing in big ships as a recreation has grown enormously in popularity in recent

years and thousands go to sea every year and come to no harm. Most sailing ships are modern vessels with built-in security features that could not be installed in historic vessels like the *Maria Asumpta* without destroying their character.

After the loss of the *Marques*, British regulations were tightened. No doubt there will be further lessons to be learnt from the loss of the *Maria Asumpta*. But it would be wrong to use the law to eliminate all risk in an activity which is deeply rewarding to the participants, and which they enter with open eyes.

Why do they always make Tories swine?

Television villains are so predictable, says Simon Brooke

FEW areas of life can have provided writers with as many cliff-hanging plots, Machiavellian protagonists and despicable anti-heroes as the world of politics. Westminster and its men and women have spawned storylines with enough twists and turns to keep even the most jaded viewer glued to the screen.

Despite their varied styles and genres, almost all of these plays, films and sitcoms have a common theme: the Tories tend to come off worst.

Conservative Central Office is regularly harangued by party activists outraged at what they see as blatant bias against their party and the Government by news and current affairs programmes. But rarely do these amateur media monitors turn their attention to fictional output. It probably would be worth their while to do so.

They can practise with Channel 4's recent offering, *The Politician's Wife*, which starred Julie Stevenson and Trevor Eve as the corrosively nasty Conservative Minister for the Family caught pressing more flesh than he should.

And in the autumn Channel 4 plans a new series commissioned from David Hare in which he has been asked to "hound the powers-that-be" and take a close look at the "crisis in the Tory Party".

The Politician's Wife is the latest of a long tradition of television fiction in which the Tories are portrayed as evil, calculating, sexually avaricious monsters. Hare's Channel 4 *Paris by Night*, in 1988, featured a ruthlessly ambitious female Tory MEP who would stop at nothing — even murder.

Yorkshire Television's sitcom *The New Statesman* attacked the Tories from another perspective, with Rik Mayall as an increasingly demented, scaldingly Thatcherite MP whose efforts to pull himself up by his own bootstraps would have caused even the most meretricious ideologue of the New Right to raise his eyebrows.

Yet Labour MPs have escaped this vicious satire. Another sitcom, *No Job for a Lady*, saw Penelope Keith

imaginatively cast as Labour MP Jean Price. Immediately we had a sympathetic character, cutting through bureaucracy, exposing cynical Whitehall hypocrisy, and regularly getting the better of her Tory colleague.

Why do Tories get such a hard time? Is it just Edwin Currie's uncanny resemblance to Cruella de Vil? Is it because the Conservatives represent the Establishment, and are an obvious target for Angry Young Men of all ages? Or is it the left-wing leaning of "luvvies" generally? Stevenson, for example, is outspoken in her contempt for all levels of the Conservative Party, and if the Labour Party's support among the artistic community was translated into votes across the country, it would enjoy a landslide victory.

The best-selling novelist and deputy Conservative Party chairman, Michael Dobbs, has little time for the protests by his fellow writers on the left: "So much of the intellectual left are a bunch of whingers. When life does not conform with what they would like it to be they immediately assume that there is some sort of conspiracy."

Should the Tories be worried? They certainly don't seem to be — no political party has carried out specific market research into the effect of such programmes. "It is nothing to get upset about, it's just a fact of life," Mr Dobbs believes.

PERHAPS they have no reason for concern. Just as actors enjoy playing the villain of the piece, so their audiences enjoy hissing them. And it may simply be that the electorate is now so cynical about politicians that it really does not care, even expecting them to behave in the ruthless, unprincipled fashion depicted in plays and films. After all, according to opinion research, Tories are traditionally regarded as efficient and well-organised — and have won four consecutive elections with this image. Perhaps the self-serving, ambitious monsters who represent them in fiction have done the Tories no real harm with the public. ● The author formerly worked at Central Office.

The attack on John Mills brought the reality of urban violence to an area that thought itself safe. Giles Coren reports

When Albert Street lost its innocence

There is always a strong smell of freshly roasted coffee at the bottom of Albert Street. The pubka residents of London NW1 will not take their morning caffeine any other way. It wafts up from the fashionable Café Delancey, which marks the frontier between leafy Victorian streets where the professional middle classes have made their homes, and the main drag of Camden High Street, all McDonald's and kebab shops, where people sleep in doorways because they have no homes at all.

In Albert Street live the novelists Beryl Bainbridge and A.N. Wilson. There are huge acacia trees and a beautiful yellow laburnum dropping blossom outside the house where, at about 8pm on Tuesday, John Mills, the businessman husband of Barbara

Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was stabbed by a gang of youths as he got out of his car.

Central suburban London is full of streets like this. At one end, large and expensive houses, at the other some council estates — in this case very well cared for ones. There is no visible division, no class demarcation among the pubs. It looks like the dream of suburban harmony in full blossom.

But for 13-year-old Paul Redford, who lives on the Mornington Street estate only a few doors from the Millses, the stabbing of Mr Mills was no surprise. "I was done on Primrose Hill last Friday," he told me. "There were about 17 of them and they hardly bothered to punch me, they just knocked me down and started kicking me."

Older residents recall the 1960s, when this part of Camden was more or less a no-go area of squats and brothels. It was not until the boom of the last decade that the rich and famous started to move in. Their influence has been felt for some time, as the pubs pull up carpets in favour of wooden floors, and eschew beer for Australian chardonnay.

Perhaps this is starting to attract the old and social elements back again. "Even in the bad old days, there weren't stabbings," says 72-year-old Ken Hubble. "But then, there was no one much worth stabbing. Some people think the way the area is going upmarket is going to make it unsafe."

"Nonsense," says a man called Miguel, who works at the Delancey Stores, which



Albert Street — is the vision of suburban harmony in full blossom turning sour?

commands a view of most of Albert Street. "What happened to Mr Mills was a one-off. I am sure the muggers were just passing through the area. If they hadn't bumped into him they would have moved through safely enough."

Beryl Bainbridge concurs. "Poor old John was unlucky. This is an entirely safe area. I pop out to the garage for fags at all hours of the night, and often go for long walks along the railway when I'm having trouble with my writing. When I first came here, 30 years ago, there were more genuine Londoners. They are starting to move back now — this has always been a mixed area, council tenants, homeowners, lots of Greeks, and it has always been lovely."

Even little Paul, brandishing his blackened and blood-shot eye like a war wound, is stoical. "We always knew that we shouldn't go down to Somers Town or the Robert Street area because of trouble, but this was always supposed to be safe. The men who attacked me might have been the same as the ones in the stabbing, but I had never seen them before and I don't think they were from round here." The group of friends he was playing with on the estate in

Mornington Street were equally sanguine, and were more excited about talking to all the police and journalists on their doorstep than frightened by the reason they were there.

But on the High Street there is an altogether more aggressive atmosphere. Huge bouncers outside late-night clubs such as the Bar Royale suggest the possibility of nocturnal strife, and pedestrians react more and more violently to homeless beggars. There is racial tension in King's Cross and Kensal Town, and urban decay on estates just beyond the bourgeois frontier.

It may be that the town planners' dream has worked in Albert Street, and for the most part life goes on as happily as ever. But the stabbing of Mr Mills is a grim reminder not to ignore those places, not so far away, where the planners' dreams went wrong.

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Tired old new Labour

Alan Duncan MP and Dominic Hobson say Blair is a real socialist

Margaret Thatcher is half right. Tony Blair is a formidable opponent. He is prepared to work within the political framework she created, and he has brought to public life the sense of purpose missing since her departure. But the former Prime Minister is wrong to believe that Mr Blair is a convert to Thatcherism leading a party of unregenerate socialists. Nor is he, as John Major believes, entirely a creation of the spin-doctors. The best-kept secret in British politics today is that the Leader of the Opposition is a socialist.

The philosophy of Tony Blair is drawn partly from Amintai Etzioni's influential *Spirit of Community*. Etzioni argues that market forces have undermined traditional "communities", causing social and family breakdown. He wants to recreate a "moral, social and public order based on restored communities". His ideas have an obvious appeal for socialists in search of fresh versions of a bankrupt creed. Another seminal text is David Selbourne's *The Principle of Duty*, which President Clinton ostensibly purchased at Blackwell's during a visit to Oxford. It describes how to

wrote Beatrice Webb in a book published in 1940, "the secular and the religious are one." The book was entitled *I Believe*. Socialism is imbued with transcendental claims of this kind. The German philosophical tradition from which it springs is charged with the idea that the individual can "realise" himself only through metaphysical union with a greater social whole.

Tony Blair is exploiting middle-class anxieties ruthlessly. "People know they face greater insecurity than ever before," he says. "People need rules which we all stand by, fixed points of agreement which impose order over chaos." It is a powerful call to return to the imagined harmony of the past, when people lived in families, stayed married, kept their jobs and helped their neighbours.

Socialism was always atavistic. All of the great socialist thinkers — Ruskin, Morris, Blatchford, Tawney, Lansbury — channelled their hatred of capitalism into nostalgia for Merry England. In that prelapsarian world, everybody knew his place, selfishness was tempered by religion, and the possessive individualism of capitalism lay centuries

Blair's basic socialist values are sadly familiar

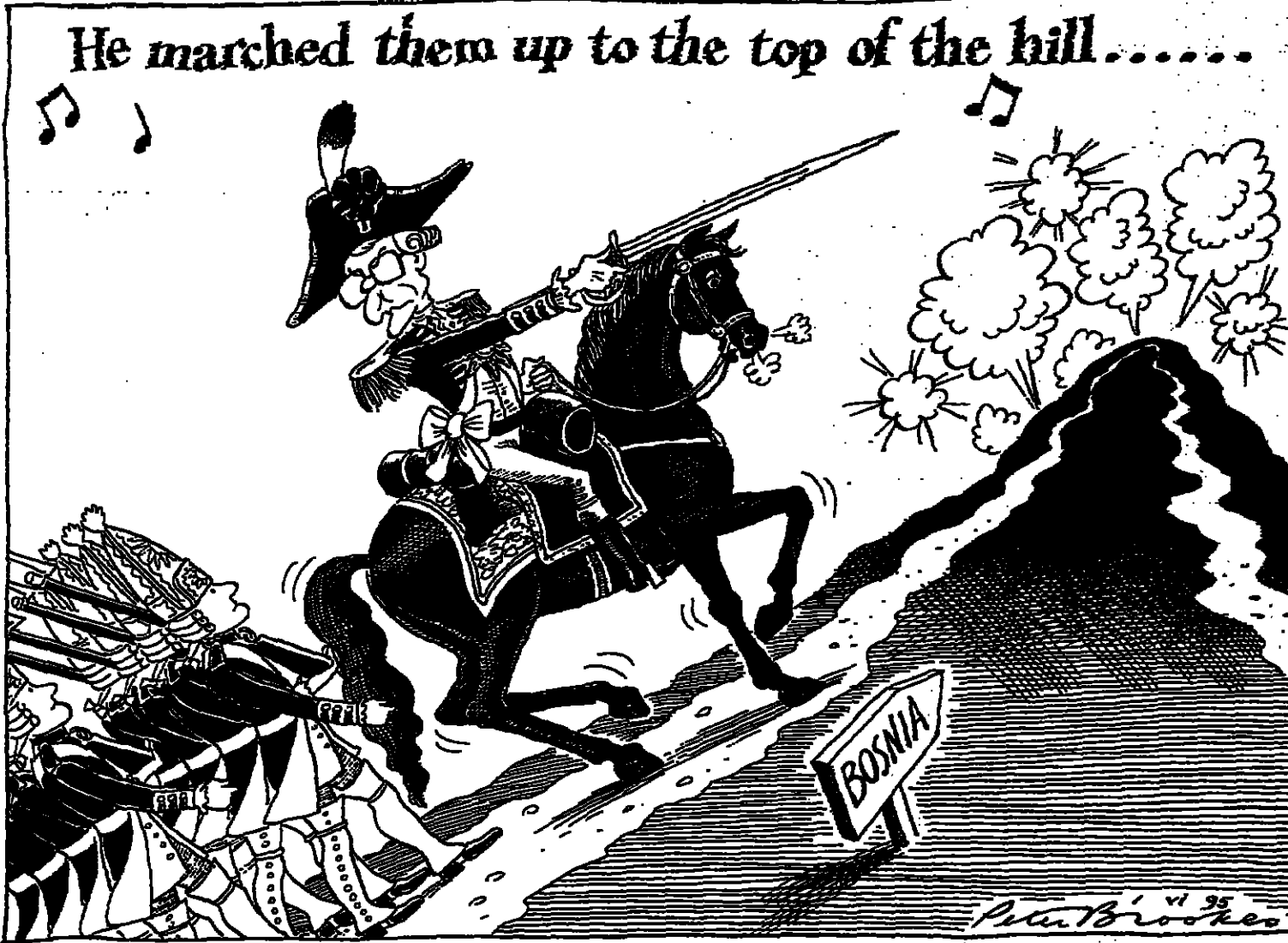
ahead. The "community" promised by Tony Blair merely moves this vision of the future from the Middle Ages to the Hovisland of the 1940s.

Restored "communities" are an ugly prospect. No community can exist beyond the unity of purpose of the individuals which make it up. Unity is easily achieved by a family or a sports team, but in larger groups it is maintained only by coercion. Anybody who refuses to work for what the new Clause Four calls "the common endeavour" will have to be made to do so. The miners' strike of 1984-85, when working miners were spat at, threatened, ostracised and attacked by their fellow workers and villagers, was a cruel exposition of the true spirit of "community".

The "active citizen" of modern socialism marks the rebirth of the political script, and the enthusiasm of the free individual. *The Principle of Duty* includes a frightening chapter entitled "Sanctions of Duty", in which Selbourne lists what happens to people who fail to do their social duty. Blair echoes its authoritarian tone, promising to fine the parents of truants and to confiscate the stereos of noisy neighbours.

Intellectual progress depends on the toleration of dissent. Social progress depends on the State leaving room for experiments in living. Material progress requires not a corporate economy but economic freedom. The most effective response to Tony Blair is for Conservatives to stop protesting that we are all communists now, and to start implementing their own values — freedom, property and the primacy of private life — with conviction.

The authors' book *Saturn's Children* is published by Sinclair-Stevenson at £16.99.



Virtual unreality

Eurocrats are refusing a public debate about their single currency

A new public campaign to sell a single European currency was launched in Brussels yesterday. The Commission published its Green Paper on the transition plan. The Association for the Monetary Union of Europe has been holding a two-day conference in Brussels. I had a somewhat distant connection with the conference. It was organised by Euroforum Deutschland, which is a subsidiary of IBC, the British Conference and Business Information company of which I am currently chairman. I went to Brussels more as a reporter than as a chairman.

As a reporter, I jotted impressions in a notebook. "Jacques Santer. How like John Major — decent, rational, unexciting. Commonplace arguments. A Luxembourg boy scout. We must talk to each other, we must explain economic arguments. We must have common objectives. We must be committed." The higher the tone, the more I dislike the sound of it. Does not even admit the dangerous consequences of dividing Europe between a single currency core and an outer rim of independent currencies.

The feeling that difficulties were being evaded persisted until near the end of the main speeches. I had jotted down 16 difficulties which the single currency project would need to overcome. The division of the core group from the independent currencies was the first. Others included the German objection to losing the mark, the British opt-out, the non-democratic structure, the lack of public support, concerns about national sovereignty and identity, the overvaluation of reserve currencies, the impact of convergence requirements on welfare spending, foreign price competition, unemployment, the conversion of national debts to a harder currency, the growing unpopularity of Brussels, the cost of implementation, the timing problem and the conflict between monetary and national fiscal policies.

No doubt other difficulties ought to be considered too. Jacques Santer's speech referred only to two of my 16 fairly obvious difficulties, and failed to resolve either of them. By the end of the main speeches, perhaps half of them had been referred to, but none had been resolved.

Considerably more interesting was the speech of the Spanish Minister of Economy and Finance, Pedro Solbes, whose Government has been suffering bad defeats in their local elections. He certainly sees one of the

main problems of the single currency. The whole project coincides with the growing difficulty of financing the European welfare state.

Why do politicians so often say the opposite of what they clearly mean? In his speech, Solbes said: "In no case is radical change in the welfare state necessary." Yet his whole speech was a warning to us all that very radical change is now inevitable. He went on to tell us what will have to be done. There is "exponential growth of expenditure". A large part of the European welfare model consists of "redistributing resources among

medium income groups". We shall have to "concentrate on the most disadvantaged and leave the rest to private activity... the worst enemy of the welfare state is the position that there is no need for change".

The Spanish Socialist Finance Minister sees clearly that economic and monetary union may get the political blame for the radical welfare changes which have now become inevitable in Europe.

The Governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet, is, not surprisingly, very French. He is a brilliantly clever and well educated man. He reminded me of Pope's lines:

Why has not man a microscopic eye? For this plain reason, man is not a fly. M Trichet has a microscopic eye. He sees the world of central banking, of money, of European schemes, of the manoeuvres of cabinets, with extreme clarity. In his arrogant insularity, he hardly refers to any events outside Europe. In reply to one question, he discussed the delicate subject of "centralised economic policy versus decentralised national policies".

It was clear which he intends shall prevail: the European central bank, perhaps with himself as its governor. If we have a single currency, M Trichet may well end up as our new sovereign: he will be as unaccountable as Henry VIII or Queen Elizabeth.

My notebook goes on to the speech on the Green Paper in the afternoon by Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the French commissioner responsible

for seeing that the single currency begins on January 1, 1999. As the day went on, I became more and more aware of the extraordinary Frenchness of the whole operation. It started under the presidency of Jacques Delors, and the French are its most powerful and authoritative spokesmen. Brussels this week felt like the Fourth French Empire. M de Silguy started briskly enough: "The single currency is going to happen. We have got to prepare for it." He has three objectives: to reduce uncertainty, to raise the awareness of the public, to win public support. He does talk

of "barriers to progress", yet none of them concerns the real difficulties of the single currency. The barriers he identifies are all about acceptance. We must get people "to fall in love with

the new currency". We must be efficient, because double accounting costs money. The new currency will have enough critical mass to enjoy market credibility. The legal arrangements must be clear. We must respect the treaty. He might as well have said that we must do as we are told.

As I listened to M de Silguy, I became even more depressed about Brussels. Like M Trichet, he is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. He is a clever man, well educated in a Cartesian way. Yet their world seems quite unreal, a world of elitist power structures in which the public are kept off stage, like the crowd in a classical court drama. The atmosphere of Brussels in the 1990s is as remote from popular reality as that of Versailles in the 1780s. Europe has over 10 per cent unemployment. The Brussels reply is that a single currency will reduce unemployment "in the long term". That is a real "let them eat cake" response. Marie-Antoinette should be the hereditary patron of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

Finally, at the end of the day, somebody said what many of us at the conference had been thinking. The speech that needed to be made came not from a Frenchman, but

from a German, not from a commissioner, but from a member of the European Parliament, the SPD member for the Duisburg district, Klaus Hänsch, a very special MEP, as he is now the President of the European Parliament. He is an unquestioned advocate of a single currency; yet he laid into the Eurocrats.

We are talking about people's political and economic concerns, about psychological uncertainties and resistances. MEPs talk to people every week who know very little about EMU. The European Parliament has supported it from the beginning. We have to win over the citizens of the member states; this goes far beyond any national attitude. There is nothing comparable, not the Treaty of Rome, not the single market. This is totally different to anything that has happened before, because it will have a direct tangible impact on every individual citizen. This is not being done for banks or politicians, but for citizens. The decision has to be undisputed in all member states.

It is not a good enough argument to say the new money will be as good as the old, it must be better for all member states. People feel that when one brings in the new money, the old will be devalued, their savings will be devalued. That comes up in almost all conversations in all member states. They want the mark to remain the mark and the franc the franc. This is not a banal issue. Monetary union would not be the first return to fall because of a misunderstanding. Nothing lends itself more than the single currency to populist nationalist agitation, to fears of loss of sovereignty, of loss of identity. Perhaps it is worst in Germany. We must help citizens understand that this is part of overall European politics, which include modernisation, unemployment, the environment, crime and a common foreign and security policy.

I am not his kind of European, and I have not been a great admirer of the European Parliament, but Dr Hänsch's speech came as a great relief. He brought the people of Europe to centre stage. If, country by country, they could be persuaded that a single currency would be better for them than their own national currencies, if all the arguments about the economics, the politics and the sovereignty issue had been fully discussed, if they had decided in referendums, then perhaps a single currency for Europe could succeed. One can be on either side of that debate. What is intolerable is the Brussels assumption that such a public debate is unnecessary, and would merely be a waste of the bureaucrats' time.

Haught couture

DESPITE bawling her lack of funds in *Hello!* magazine, the Duchess of York does not appear to be cutting costs in the wardrobe department. The fun-loving duchess has ordered 12 new outfits from the London couturier Isabella Kristensen for the summer.

They will come with matching handbags by Anya Hindmarch, shoes by Jimmy Choo, and make-up suggestions to ensure full coordination from top to toe. Kristensen outfits do not come cheap, even with the duchess's inevitable discount: her suits retail at around £700; evening wear is considerably more.

Isabella Kristensen helps to dress Mrs Bruce Forsyth, Valerie Campbell, Mandy Smith, the all-girl pop group Bananarama and assorted members of European royal families. She is noted for cloud-like tulle ballgowns.

But yesterday she was unwilling to comment on the duchess's style other than to say that that her influences for this season's collections have been twofold: the bathycolpian cartoon character Jessica Rabbit and reed-slender Audrey Hepburn. "One of my great specialities is the corset," she says. "And

they are padded for both bust and hips."

● Much speculation about Lord Owen's future has followed his revelation yesterday that he wants to step down as the European Union's peace negotiator in Bosnia. Although he has ruled out a return to active politics, one post might well attract him: chairman



of the governors of the BBC, in succession to Marmaduke Hussey.

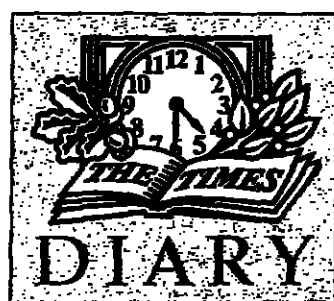
Box of delight

PEPPYS LIBRARIAN Richard Luckett evoked a bygone age at Tuesday's launch of the paperback edition of the complete Pepys Diary: not the 1660s, but the 1960s. He said that the fellows of Magdalene College, Cambridge — custodians of the Diary — closely followed the progress of the *Lady Chatterley* trial at the time when they had to decide whether to publish an unexpurgated Pepys.

In order for them to pass judgement on some of Pepys's more vulgar turns of phrase, a transcript was made of controversial passages. The college messenger was then charged with dispatching these pages from don to don in a locked red box and separately conveying the key. Just the sort of clandestine excitement Mr Pepys enjoyed.

Lights, lights

BRIAN COX is ambivalent about the joys of working *à fresco*. After Tuesday's first night of *Richard III*, which he has directed at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park, he looked fit to drop.



The production involves complex lighting effects which couldn't be rehearsed until after dusk — which meant all-night rehearsals. "Not many people get to see dawn over Regent's Park," he yawned. "Added to that, all these bats appeared in the middle of the night and were swirling about our heads as we worked."

A large white cat came close to stealing the show on Tuesday. It emerged from the bushes off stage left and approached the action inquisitively. It thought better of joining the actors, and turned and fled in the direction of the hamburger stall.

Not cricket

LONDON ZOO is recruiting a team of Morris Men to help perk up the sex lives of its crickets. They

are being asked to provide a fertility dance to encourage rare field and wall-biter crickets to breed in a specially designed enclosure.

The new cricket house hopes to reintroduce the insects to the English countryside. Field crickets, which were once the sound of summer, recently declined to just one colony of 100 in West Sussex. It is hoped that local Morris Men will inspire the insects to procreation at the opening of the centre this weekend.

"I'm sure it will bring back memories of the strains of jingling bells over the Sussex countryside," says Paul Pearce-Kelly, curator of the invertebrate conservation centre. "I'm sure it will be a help."

Tuned out

VIOLINIST Tasmin Little and Russian-born conductor Yakov Kreizberg caused a minor panic in the orchestra pit at Winchester Cathedral this week. They very nearly failed to reappear for the second half of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's concert in their Cathedral Classics series.

Some feared they had decided against returning to perform the Brahms violin concerto altogether. Actually they had slipped across the close during the interval to the cathedral organists' house for a



Tasmin, where are you?

last-minute practice. They had asked the concert organisers to summon them for the second half, but were so busy practising that they never heard the doorbell.

"We all sat there, waiting for someone to give the conductor the nod, but nobody appeared," says Tony Woodcock, the orchestra's managing director. "In the end we almost had to break the door down to get them out." At which point the couple returned *con vivace*.

P.H.S.

A war the US can't ignore

Lawrence

Freedman on Clinton's failure

President Clinton's silence during the Bosnian hostage crisis has been eloquent but unimpressive. His Secretaries of State and Defence have stuck to a established policy, confirming a readiness to take tough action against the Serbs as long as it does not involve American troops. As the crisis deepens, it is hard to see how this semi-detached stance can be sustained. There are three reasons for the Administration to think hard again about its policy.

First, it cannot escape responsibility for the current mess. In their enthusiasm for air strikes, the Americans have regularly played down the degree of risk to UN troops, even though they resolutely refused to put their own troops in harm's way. The fear of Serb retaliation has nonetheless been the main reason for the hesitation and tentativeness with which airborne weapons have been used for the past 18 months. Every air strike has been a calculated risk, and many have resulted in harassment of UN troops by the Serbs.

It is quite disingenuous for Washington to hint that the troops should have been protected before last week's strikes. Redeployment of the most isolated units to safer positions would have compromised important elements of the UN mission and would have taken too long, given the urgency for action. If it had been so easy NATO would not have spent the past few months developing complicated plans for their withdrawal. The United States has been most associated with the policy that triggered the hostage-taking, so it has a special responsibility to help to resolve the situation.

Secondly, the seizure of UN troops has transformed the politics of Bosnia. The standard line is that no vital American interests are bound up with the outcome of the Bosnian civil war. Perhaps not, yet John Major has acknowledged that when the Serbs took UN troops captive they raised the stakes for all concerned. Presumably America does consider the integrity of the United Nations, the credibility of NATO, gross breaches of international law, as well as the risks of a wider Balkan war and threats to the lives of soldiers from a number of its leading allies to be something like vital national interests.

Thirdly, America actually has plans at an advanced stage to introduce up to 25,000 troops into Bosnia. These would be part of a much larger NATO operation to bring out Unprofor if conditions become too hazardous and hopeless. It has always seemed a little bizarre that only at the point of retreat would NATO forces become seriously engaged in the Bosnian war.

A substantial contingent of American troops in Bosnia would transform the situation, and oblige the Bosnian Serbs to reappraise their position. It would not be necessary or sensible to declare this to be a war-fighting force, designed to work with the Bosnian army in pushing back the Serbs. Rather, such a force could show resolve without relying on air raids, which might endanger the hostages. It could, for example, seize artillery pieces or push through convoys, without having to turn back at the first road-block.

Given that the Bosnian Serbs are already nervous about the shifting military balance, such a development would encourage them to take an interest in a diplomatic settlement. Influence over events in Bosnia almost always depends on presence on the ground.

Two thousand American marines are deployed with the aircraft-carrier *Roosevelt* in the Adriatic. They have been described as a precautionary measure, and could be used for special operations in the unlikely event that it looked feasible to rescue the hostages. The most promising use of them would be to secure staging areas for more substantial army and air force units, in support of either a withdrawal or a more robust action. Yet the most the Americans have actually offered the UN is military equipment — possibly including armoured personnel carriers and helicopters, but without any troops.

So a stronger contribution cannot be ruled out but opposition to military interventions runs deep in Washington, which is still haunted by its abortive engagement in Somalia.

It is also hard to see how any large-scale deployment of American troops could be managed under anything other than a NATO command, and that could lead to complicated command arrangements with the UN.

The Clinton Administration will not be able to continue for long as if current events were no more than an unfortunate setback for an otherwise well-considered policy. Even if the situation does not deteriorate further, the President may soon have to contemplate ranges in the Senate which are designed to push him once again towards lifting the arms embargo. The Administration has sought to reaffirm America's claim to lead the Western world, but it refuses to accept risk, or sacrifice. They can't have it both ways.

The author is professor of war studies at King's College, London.



EMERGENCY CALL

Now for a strategy to match yesterday's defence of principle

Storms clear the air. John Major's speech on Bosnia yesterday, one of his best Commons performances, was further evidence that the monstrous conduct of the Bosnian Serbs has finally begun to blow Western policy on the Balkans out of the doldrums in which it had for months been drifting. France's love affair with the United Nations has been tempered by the hostage-taking and it is now pressing hard not only for reinforcements in Bosnia, but for "a hands-on role" in operations. Even Bill Clinton now seems to be prepared to use American ground forces not just to cover a withdrawal, but to assist a redeployment of forces which would render Unprofor less vulnerable to Serb outrages. All these plans are still in flux but it seems that if the Serbs expected to secure a panicked UN withdrawal, they have gained ground only with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the erratic UN Secretary-General.

To the British Government, the "qualitative change" in the situation on the ground to which Mr Major referred seems to have restored its grasp of the principles at stake. A palpable reinvigoration of Balkan policy marked yesterday's Commons debate. Mr Major set out to provide answers to members of the public who have become bewildered by the intricacies of the conflict and dubious of British involvement. It was well done. Gone were the dismal evasions about "unwinnable civil war". He made an unanswerable case for Britain's military engagement in Bosnia.

The Prime Minister restated the humanitarian cause, the prevention of "cold-blooded racially based murder" and starvation, with unusual eloquence and obvious sincerity. More importantly, perhaps, he laid out with unwonted clarity Britain's strategic national interest in preventing the Bosnian dispute from escalating into a wider Balkan war. At a time of peril for British forces, it was never seriously in question that Mr Major would largely obtain the unequivocal support of the House which he sought. Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown hinted at errors past, but gave the new policy backing as

nearly unqualified as is human in leaders of opposition parties. The small band of MPs who believe that the UN should cut and run was early subdued — notably by the surgical strike against any suggestion to succumb to blackmail with which Mr Major met Teresa Gorman's miserable question about how best to comply with Bosnian Serb demands that air strikes be halted.

On withdrawal, he pointed out the obvious: "Withdrawal is not a policy. No one should believe that leaving Bosnia would end the UK's interest in this conflict." Civilians would certainly suffer. They were exposed to horrors at the time when British troops were first deployed in 1992. "Depart" — and these dangers return. The obvious needed to be stated. But this debate, so necessary for the British public, must now be followed by detailed mapping of instructions to Unprofor consistent with a less yielding strategy. Mr Major insisted yesterday that the reinforcement of the British contingent in Bosnia was not a cover for withdrawal. But he had little light to shed on what the purposes of the redeployment of Unprofor might be, and on this issue, Britain and France may again be headed for conflict with the UN Secretary-General.

Mr Boutros Ghali, who once disgracefully dismissed the Balkan conflict as "a white man's war", has only set out "options". But the drift of his advice would be to demilitarise the Bosnian "safe areas", while simultaneously depriving them of UN and Nato protection, both on the ground and from the air. This must be resisted, and not only because it would reward the Bosnian Serbs: such undertakings would deprive international diplomacy of all leverage.

Manifestly, the UN cannot run a shooting war. But firm responses to attack are politically warranted, obviously necessary and within the existing mandate. The Security Council should leave the UN's chief officer in no doubt that the mood is against capitulation, however dressed in UN-speak. Redeployment must strengthen, not emasculate, the forces of peace.

SID TURNS UP THE HEAT

British Gas shareholders have a right to be angry

When the story of Britain's attempts to improve corporate governance comes to be written, yesterday may prove to be a hinge day. Government ministers have for years been reciting the mantra that executive pay is for shareholders to decide. Yet at British Gas's annual general meeting — Docklands Arena filled to the brim — ordinary shareholders were adamant that they wanted the company to improve its procedures. The result? Almost certain defeat for millions of Sids, but victory for Cedric & Co.

The official tally will not be announced until today. But the betting is that, despite a massive show of hands in favour of a resolution criticising British Gas's remuneration packages, the board and its proxies will prevail. PIRC, the corporate governance consultancy which has been campaigning on behalf of the small shareholder, declared yesterday to be a "moral victory" for them. But real victory is still far from their grasp.

The shareholders travelled to Docklands in their thousands. Many were old and frail, but they sat through a full day of argument regardless. Passions were high as shareholder after shareholder went to the podium to express anger at the board's lack of attention, both to its customers and its owners. "British Gas appears to be a private dictatorship as far as salaries are concerned," said one. Others complained that coming to the meeting had been a waste of time because the board was not listening to shareholders' views. They let off steam by voting on a show of hands against the reappointment of all but one director, but this result will probably be overturned in a ballot. The shareholders had every right to be angry. The pay of the chief executive, Cedric

Brown, has risen by 71 per cent in a year in which many of his staff are being laid off or asked to take pay cuts. The board's rationale for the increase is that Mr Brown should be paid a salary comparable to his counterparts in other big gas companies. Yet the international comparisons are with companies in competitive environments; British Gas is still a monopoly, in which it is hard not to make huge profits.

Moreover, if there were a danger that Mr Brown were about to fit to America, a higher salary might be justified to retain him. Yet no such danger exists. He has been with British Gas for his whole working life, and admitted yesterday that he never wanted to work anywhere else.

The pay rise was not just bad public relations; it will affect directly British Gas's profitability. Even the big institutional shareholders should worry that the company's reputation has now sunk so low that customers will desert it in droves when other companies are allowed to enter the domestic gas supply market. And employees at British Gas are much more likely to take industrial action, at great cost to the company's profits, because they feel that they have been unfairly treated.

So where were the big shareholders yesterday? Most were craven enough to support the board, after the chairman's threat that not to do so would amount to a vote of no confidence. Yet such a vote is precisely what is needed to shake up the cosy cartel of corporate emoluments. Institutional shareholders must start to exercise their muscle. The sooner boards realise that they — like the rest of the world — have to be accountable, the better.

MAYAN MYSTERY

Was a great civilisation humbled by an even greater drought?

In the beginning, according to the *Popol Vuh*, the Mayan text which is our greatest source of knowledge on the mythology of that ancient people, "there was only the Creator, the Shaper, Tepeu, Guucumatz, and the Progenitors". They created man successfully out of maize, having tried to make him first from mud and wood: these men of grain eventually fashioned a civilisation in Central America whose texture was as rich and compelling as its collapse was mysterious.

Having sprung from maize — as legend would have it — this culture probably crumbled for a hunger for it. New research, published in the latest issue of *Nature*, argues that a prolonged drought, the product of sharp climatic changes in the region, spelt the end of the Classical Mayan civilisation. "Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare, the lone and level sands stretch far away."

It has been asserted before that a shortage of food was the cause of the great migration of people from Mayan cities, but the tendency has been to hold the Mayans themselves responsible. Their agricultural methods, many have argued, were unable to cope with increases in population. More fanciful theories have suggested that the collapse of the civilisation was due to the higher death rate among girls: a severe shortage of women dealt society a blow from which it

was impossible ever to recover. But the latest attempt at an explanation for the end of Mayan civilisation is unlikely to dull our fascination with the abjectness of its demise.

The six centuries of its flowering — from 300 A.D. to 900 A.D. — in modern-day Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Mexico, were brooding and bloody ones for Europe. The Mayans were the most advanced people by far in pre-Columbian America and their proto-scientific attainments could be said to match those of most of the other high civilisations of old.

The Mayans, moreover, were the only people in the New World to develop an embryonic system of writing. Add to that their complex system of numeration, astronomical observations and calendrical inventiveness and one has a picture of a polished and methodical society. Yet as Sir Eric Thompson pointed out in his seminal — and unsurpassed — work, *The Rise and Fall of Maya Civilisation*, the Maya "excelled in the impractical but failed in the practical". They mapped the skies but the concept of the wheel eluded them; they understood eternity but their buildings failed to progress from corbelled to true arch. The men of maize counted in millions but "never learnt to weigh a sack of corn". A drought defeated the Mayans, it seems: lesser civilisations, arguably, would have survived.

Bosnia crux for UK Government

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Once again the Government is sending more troops to Bosnia for the protection of those troops which have already been sent. No doubt they will soon need the protection of yet more.

Once again the Government, without the aid of a clearly defined policy with precisely identified and achievable objectives, having spotted an avoidable mire is plunging into it without a clue as to how it will get out or an idea as to what it is trying to do while there. It is, as is its habit, becoming more and more enmeshed as hostage to events over which it has no control.

Men join the Army knowing that they could be required to risk their lives for their country. They cannot fairly be ordered to take the same risk when offered as United Nations mercenaries if Britain's national interest is not clearly at stake.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8,
May 31.

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, You report today that the whole international community is searching for "a formula to ease growing tensions" in Bosnia. The formula is staring them all in the face.

That the Contact Group need to do now is to negotiate directly in Pale with Radovan Karadzic and Radko Mladic, and not in Belgrade with President Milosevic. The President has spent most of the year trying to get rid of the Bosnian Serb political leaders, who represent a direct threat to the old communist establishment.

The Bosnian Serbs, who are over-stretched and outnumbered, would certainly have been defeated by the Muslims and Croats if Nato had managed to demolish all their ammunition depots and artillery. Their only hope of survival depended on seizing UN prisoners and weapons.

You really must stop expecting the Bosnian Serbs to allow themselves to be bombed and, once the bombs are dropped, accusing them of being war criminals for engaging in the only form of resistance left open to them ("Confronting terror", leading article, May 29). The British prisoners are no doubt very conscious of the need for direct negotiations.

Yours etc,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belsize Road, NW6,
May 30.

From Mr D. B. Ryder

Sir, There is no point in condemning the Bosnian Serbs for hostage-taking. When a group of indigenous people of one religious persuasion are placed, against their will, under the political control of a government of a different religious persuasion no holds are ever barred. The history of Ireland in the past three centuries and more should teach us this.

If the international community is determined that the Orthodox Serbs living in Bosnia should become subject to the Muslim-dominated government of Bosnia-Herzegovina then it should be prepared for far greater atrocities than those which have been experienced to date.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. RYDER,
19 Brockenhurst Road,
Martins Heron, Bracknell, Berkshire,
May 30.

From the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Telegraph

Sir, Simon Jenkins is uncharacteristically disingenuous in his column on Bosnia today (May 31). He identifies *The Daily Telegraph* among the bellicose media voices, by misleading quotation. In our editorial on Monday, we indeed argued that the UN's credibility in Bosnia would be destroyed if the UN backed down merely to save the lives of its own hostages. But we went on to say that, since the West has never possessed the will, or been willing to commit the means, to make its intervention in Bosnia militarily effective, the UN should withdraw.

Simon Jenkins also quotes a signed piece by Robert Fox, a *Daily Telegraph* writer, describing Bosnia as "the worst security threat to Europe since 1945" as if this was our editorial view, which of course it is not. To clarify the pleasant irony: for years now, Simon Jenkins's views on Bosnia have mirrored remarkably frequently those of *The Daily Telegraph*. It seems a bit odd that he should now seek to disagree with us, when it is *The Times*'s resounding call to arms with which he is really out of step.

Yours faithfully,
MAX HASTINGS,
Editor-in-Chief,
The Daily Telegraph,
1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, E14,
May 31.

From Mr Robert Kee

Sir, Talk about no British interest being involved in Bosnia reminds me of Chamberlain's remark about "a quarrel in a far away country between people of whom we know nothing".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEE,
82 Camberwell Grove, SE5,
May 31.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

More composers, worse music?

From Professor Nigel D'Arcy

Sir, I reply to Paul Griffiths's reply to Bernard Levin ("Once, Wagner was new music", Arts, May 29; see also letters, May 27). More records do mean greater access, but also greater commercialisation. More composers at work today may mean more potential geniuses in the wings, but also more junk, more unconscious conformity, and more gratuitous iconoclasm, to achieve fame against such numerical odds. And if novelty is essentially a modern need our music fulfils, then serious and popular music are now morally on a par.

As there was no pop music industry to siphon off resources in Beethoven's day, whatever his complaints, culturally his society had something over ours. Our modern music, in order to survive, needs to be a cult with a prestigious, somewhat scholastic, backing.

Within that cult there would be one "art of listening". Outside it, the art of listening will not have died, only remained in a quite different form. In a society with many arts of listening the price for the survival of modern music is this prestigious marginality.

To put serious new music back at the centre of discourse and patronage is to ask not for cultural but for social reform. If Mr Levin wants Beethoven back he must campaign for a Habsburg restoration. If Mr Griffiths likes the modern West as it is he must accept the intrinsic marginality of modern music to a Beethoven-loving public.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL D'ARCY,
Flat 5, 23 Lowndes Square, SW1,
May 30.

From Mr Keith Burstein

Sir, Paul Griffiths states that the "idea of a universal music is receding". This devastating notion is typical of the modernist fall-back position of "anything goes".

What mysterious line are we assumed to have crossed in the late twentieth century that supposedly prevents the greatest "universal" music of lasting worth from being written? We composers merely seek permission to use tonality and melody again, in order to show what can still be done.

According to Bernard Levin ("When the music stops", May 23) those like

himself who have a profound interest in our classical musical culture may now, in the face of a vacuum and played-out modernism, legitimately ask, "Has music stopped?" May I reassure Mr Levin that there are growing numbers of us dedicated to creating new classical music who will offer him a firm and confident "No".

When I and others protested at Britwistle's modernist *Gawain* last year (reports and leading article, April 2, 1994) we realised from the intense media interest and white-hot dispute aroused that we had started something important. The blue touch paper has been lit on a redundant and reactionary modernist end-game.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH BURSTEIN,
Flat 1, Marius Mansions,
Marius Road, SW17,
May 29.

From Dr C. V. Howard

Sir, Has music stopped? Bernard Levin has surely answered his own question. I quote: "I can and shall live without the new music because I have the old music always at my elbow" (my italics). Is it not this instant and continuous barrage of musical sounds (not necessarily music) that is now available at the push of a button which stifles creativity?

Most of the great composers of the pre-recording age had developed much of their mature style in embryo before they were exposed heavily to live music. That which they did hear was generally of the best. Nowadays a mere ten-year-old could have listened to more hours of music than Papa Haydn would have heard in his whole life span. This must have an effect on the ability of the mind to have original musical thoughts.

It seems that for some human activities it is inhibiting to be exposed too much, too early, to previous influences and dogmas. Perhaps a start towards helping Mr Levin in his dilemma might be to immediately close all schools of musical theory and composition. Is it too late to ban musical recordings?

Yours faithfully,
C. V. HOWARD (Chairman,
Liverpool Mozart Orchestra),
38 Barendson Road,
Oxtan, Birkenhead, Merseyside,
May 23.

Freedom to roam

From Mr J. N. P. Watson

Sir, As a member of the Ramblers' Association I agree with Lord Peel (letter, May 27) rather than with the organisation's chairman (letter, May 24). Human disturbance is largely the cause of the unhappy decline of our fauna and flora, and we owe a great deal to private land ownership for what is left of it.

A glance at any county map, of its close patterns of public footpaths, shows that there is already quite sufficient access to the countryside. The Ramblers' Association should endeavour to project a more conservationist image.

Yours faithfully,
J. N. P. WATSON,
Penny's,
Shipley, Horsham, West Sussex,
May 28.

Jean Muir

From Mr Hugh Pearman

Sir, Many people unconnected with the world of fashion will grieve at the news of the untimely death of Jean Muir (report, May 30), for she gave her time very freely to all aspects of design. As well as being a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI), as your excellent obituary recalls, she was made Master of the Faculty of RDIs, based at the Royal Society of Arts, in 1993.

Her energy in this role was astonishing, and she put the faculty right back on the map as a standard-bearer for design excellence. Typically, it was not the clothes designers she most admired, nor yet the architects or graphic or product designers represented on the faculty (though she had time for all these), but most of all the engineers — the people who designed the engines that power Concorde and who can fling a bridge across the Bosphorus.

With the talents of such people and their young successors, she believed —

Flying doctors

From Professor Emeritus Stanley R. Friesen

Sir, Your editorial "Sellotape, air hostess" (May 24), rightly compliments the surgeons who carried out a procedure at 35,000 feet (letters, May 27, 29). It leads one to believe that such may not happen on an American aircraft because American doctors "might have been frightened off their duty" because of a possibility of being sued.

You should be informed that there is a widespread "good-Samaritan" law in the States that protects doctors as well as patients from that fear. I have observed doctors who readily respond when needed, and not only in airplanes: I have done so myself on a couple of occasions.

Yours etc,
STANLEY R. FRIESEN
(University of Kansas,
School of Medicine),
Robinson College, Cambridge,
May 23.

Breeze in family trees

From Dr A. P. Joseph

Sir, Cecil Humphrey-Smith's case is overstated when he suggests widespread shortcomings by fee-charging researchers ("Genealogists are told to put their house in order", May 22). Genealogical rogues do exist, regrettably, as in all walks of life, but a legal remedy is already available through the small-claims procedure.

Establishing new genealogical professional regulation would be over-reaction, and the expense and bureaucracy would increase professional charges.

I am etc,
ANTHONY JOSEPH,
(UK representative, Society of
Australian Genealogists),
25 Westbourne Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
May 28.

and would countenance no ifs or buts — the commercial greatness of Britain could be restored. She had also recently become a patron of the proposed new college at the University of Durham, close to her Northumberland home, and had already made a mark on design discussions there.

She was also an excellent judge of contemporary architecture: her description, as one of the judges in the 1989 "Building of the Year" awards, of Nicholas Grimshaw's then-new printworks building for the *Financial Times* as "an inland jewel box" helped to ensure that the building was declared a winner.

Miss Muir could make a picnic a work of art, and could select a malt whisky to challenge the nectar of the gods. She was, I noted on several occasions, one of the very few people instantly to be recognised with affection and awe wherever she went.

HUGH,
HUGH PEARMAN,
49 Evershot Road, N4.

Labour's economics

From Mr J. R. L. Cunningham

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt seems now lost in a time warp with a growing inability to analyse rationally the Labour Party's economic blueprint for office ("Thatcher does back Major", May 23). For example the stockbrokers James Capel, in their comment this week on Labour's new economic policy, argue that "it would leave Labour's fiscal stance well within the Maastricht guidelines and looking responsible relative to some of the UK's European neighbours. What Labour has offered so far is medium-term prudence, which is reassuring".

We need a serious debate on Mr Blair's proposals, not feeble attempts to rubbish them.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. L. CUNNINGHAM
(Chairman),
Investment Research of Cambridge,
28 Pantou Street, Cambridge,
May 23.

Labour plans for women's quotas

From Ms Ann Carlton

Sir, Banning men from standing as parliamentary candidates in some seats (reports, May 26; Simon Jenkins, May 27) marks one more step in Labour's drive towards women's quotas for other posts, too. Many Labour Party offices apply them, even for ward delegates and constituency party treasurers. Preparations are being made at the Labour Party headquarters in Walworth Road for the next stage of this "winninist" nonsense — the introduction of quotas for council candidates.

If these matters were put to one member, one vote, the national executive committee would be resoundingly defeated, in my view. That is why women-only short lists are being imposed.

Yours sincerely,
ANN CARLTON
(Co-convenor, Labour Supporters for Real Equality),
Plashbach,
The Links, Pembrey, Dyfed,
May 27.

From Mr L. P. Baylis

Sir, At one time you simply needed good political connections to get the Labour Party's nomination. Now all you need, apparently, are the right genitalia.

Sincerely,
LESLIE PATRICK BAYLIS,
11 Victoria Street, Exeter, Devon,
May 27.

From Mr Peter Gilbert

Sir, A more democratic way to increase female representation would surely be for each constituency to return two Members of Parliament, one male and one female. A politically correct ratio would thus be assured and Parliament (hopefully) much improved. To keep the total numbers unchanged the size of constituencies could be doubled.

Yours faithfully,
P. GILBERT,
84 Bramble Avenue, Cornburrow,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
May 26.

From Mr Lionel Alexander

Sir, Simon Jenkins writes, "All Labour pigs are equal but some are more equal than others... There is nothing new down on Animal Farm". Of course not. George Orwell's real name was Blair.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL ALEXANDER,
Clunmore,
Drumadrochit, Inverness,
May 27.

Boost for women

From Ms Lesley Abdela

Sir, Harold Wilson was the first (and only) British Prime Minister to appoint three women to his Cabinet: the redoubtable Shirley (now Baroness) Williams and Barbara (now Baroness) Castle, and at Overseas Development Judith (later Baroness) Hart.

I remember asking him at a 300 Group reception in the Lords some years after his retirement what he considered his proudest achievements. He replied, "first, putting Shirley Williams and Barbara Castle in my Cabinet, and second helping to put into being the Open University," adding: "Given the scarcity of women at university up to that point, consider how much the OU has helped women to gain something of a fair chance in a world otherwise terrifyingly biased against them."

I can name no other Prime Minister, however brave his or her words, who can live up to Harold Wilson's achievements in equalising opportunity for women in the UK.

Yours sincerely,
LESLIE ABDELA,
The Lodge, Conock Manor, Wiltshire,
May 27.

Out to grass

From Mrs Venetia Kenney-Herbert

Sir, As chief lawn mower in our establishment I was delighted to read (report, May 27) of a chemical to stop the grass growing so fast. It will, however, be useless here unless it stops the daisies too.

Yours faithfully,
VENETIA KENNEY-HERBERT,
The Poplars,
Rolstone, Hewish,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon,
May 27.

Living for today

From Mr William Folkes

Sir, In my rather languid youth I would never do today what I could put off until tomorrow because by tomorrow it might not need doing.

Now, on my 60th birthday, I have changed my philosophy of life. I will not put off until tomorrow what I can do today, because I may enjoy it, and tomorrow I can do it again.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FOLKES,
Tower House, Lockner Holt,
Chilworth, Guildford, Surrey,
May 24.

NEWS

UN chief urges Bosnia pullback

■ The United Nations Secretary-General appeared to be preparing to pull troops back from UN "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, just as Parliament gave John Major overwhelming support to send 6,000 more men to the former Yugoslav republic.

Boutros Boutros Ghali warned Britain and other countries against using more force in Bosnia and made clear that if they wanted to take a more robust approach to the Bosnian Serbs, they would have to form a multinational force rather than do it under the UN flag. Pages 1, 10, 12, 15

British Gas shareholders' anger

■ Angry shareholders overwhelmingly voted against the reappointment of four British Gas directors during an ill-tempered five-hour meeting in London. Pages 1, 11

Phone bill cuts

British Telecom is cutting the cost of the average phone bill by a further £8 a year when it begins charging for calls by the second and cuts the cost of weekend local calls. Page 1

Maxwell trial opens

Kevin and Ian Maxwell, the youngest sons of Robert Maxwell, the late publishing tycoon, went on trial at the Old Bailey — three-and-a-half years after their father was found dead in the sea off Tenerife. Pages 1, 6, 7

Prince in Dublin

The Prince of Wales arrived in Dublin to begin the first official royal visit to the city for 84 years, and the first to the Irish Republic since the country wrested its independence, first from Westminster and ultimately from the British crown. Page 2

Heroic effort

Tales of the heroism of the *Maria Asumpta* crew unfolded as it emerged that a 23-year-old Cornishman had fought in vain to save the lives of the two women on board. Page 3

Reeve 'paralysed'

Christopher Reeve may be paralysed from the neck down and fighting for his life, according to sources at the University of Virginia hospital where the actor, who starred as Superman, was taken after a weekend riding accident. Page 3

US Indians ask to resume whaling

■ A tribe of American Indians has applied to resume whaling more than 70 years after its government imposed a ban. The Makah, whose reservation is at a disused US Army engineering camp at Neah Bay, Washington, told the International Whaling Commission meeting in Dublin that they needed the mammals for tribal rituals. Page 9

Hospital visiting

Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, spent the day at the hospital bedside of her husband, John, as he recovered after being stabbed by muggers near their home. Page 5

Mayans' decline

The Mayan civilisation, which flourished for more than 2,000 years and then abruptly declined, may have been the victim of climate change. Page 8

Lack of literacy

One in five school-leavers lacks the literacy and numeracy skills demanded at work, according to a new report. Page 9

Housing traps

Russia may have to rehouse tens of thousands of inhabitants in the Far East, after this week's earthquake showed that blocks of flats will become death traps if there are more tremors. Page 16

Nato accord

Russia formally agreed to a new security relationship with Nato that will guarantee consultation on key military and political issues. Page 16

Waco hearings

The US Congress begins hearings next month into the Waco siege, amid increasing evidence that there were few hard facts to sanction the government raid on the Branch Davidian sect two years ago. Page 17



Two children watching their father, a pilot, prepare his helicopter for Bosnia at RAF Dishworth, York, yesterday. Reports, pages 1, 10, 12, 15

BUSINESS

Chrysler: Kirk Kerkorian, the secretive billionaire, withdrew his \$22.8 billion bid for Chrysler, America's third largest car maker. Page 25

Shipyards: British Aerospace has launched a renewed bid of £578 million for VSEL, Britain's largest warship builder, setting the scene for a resumed battle with GEC for domination of the defence industry. Page 25

Currencies: The major central banks staged an ambush for sellers of the US dollar. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 9.5 points to 3319.4. Sterling's weighted index rose from 84.0 to 84.3 after a fall from \$1.6015 to \$1.5897 but a rise from DM2.2258 to DM2.2455. Page 28

SPORT

Rugby union: England reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup with a 27-20 win over Italy. Australia also qualified, and Ireland beat Japan 50-28. Pages 44, 48

Football: Tottenham, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday have entered the controversial Intercontinental Cup, which starts on June 24 and is a qualifying event for the UEFA Cup. Page 48

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the No 2 seed, was knocked out in the first round of the French Open by the unseeded Gilbert Schaller, of Austria. Page 46

Crickets: The draw for the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup paired Kent with Somerset and Worcestershire with Lancashire. Page 42

ARTS

New on film: Elizabeth Hurley looks good in *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, but on every other front it's a bad British movie. Rosie Perez squawks her way through *Somebody to Love*. Page 35

London theatre: Brian Cox's flawed production of *Richard III* launches the Open Air summer season in Regent's Park; the Redgrave resurges *The Flarepaths* for their anti-Fascist season at the Riverside. Page 35

Beautiful building: Marcus Binney admires the confident style of John Outram's new business school for Cambridge. Page 36

Operatic high: An outstanding production of Britten's *Billy Budd* at Covent Garden is only for those with strong stomachs. Page 37

Friendly fire: Dr James Le Fanu on how the body's auto-immune system can turn on healthy cells and destroy them. Page 18

Street life: "The way the area is going upmarket is going to make it unsafe," says a Camden resident on the snatching of John Mills. Giles Coren reports. Page 19

Raleigh's quest: Peter Ackroyd reviews Charles Nicholl's re-creation of the great Elizabethan explorer's hunt for El Dorado. Page 39

Judging Jeffrey: The lives of Lord Archer: Daniel Johnson on Michael Crick's biography. Page 38

The meaning of art: Roger Scruton on aesthetics. Peter Mandler and Marcus Binney on architecture, plus new Irish fiction and neuroscience. Pages 38, 39

The ink was barely dry on the "framework" agreement between Israel and Syria announced last week before Syria was hinting it isn't worth the paper it's written on... a perfect illustration of the Alice-in-Wonderland quality of Middle East peace negotiations. — *The Washington Times*

Bosnia has been disastrous for solidarity of the Western alliance. A gesture of loyalty now cannot turn bad into good, but can at least prevent bad from turning to worse. — *Los Angeles Times*

UK involvement in Bosnia: originality and banality in modern classical music. Page 21

TOMORROW

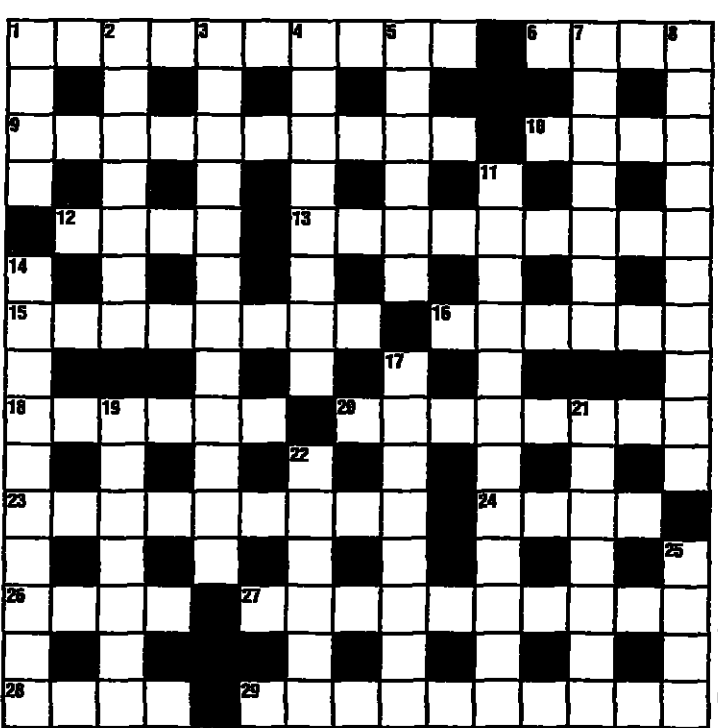
IN THE TIMES

■ **ROLE MODELS**
Valerie Grove talks to Corin Redgrave about the life and loves of his father

■ **HOT RODDING**
David Sinclair on the new Rod Stewart album, and Paul Sexton talks to Joan Armatrading



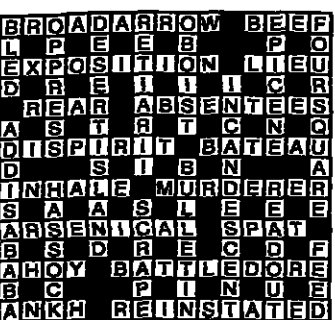
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,870



ACROSS

- 1 Fraud on little woman — man to answer for it (2,3,5).
- 6 Rocks make voyage change direction (4).
- 9 English composer replaces nothing in hit — he's a know-all (6,4).
- 10 Fellow takes shelter in Levant (4).
- 12 Continue being a fool (4).
- 13 Searching the dictionary for 'on the mend' (7,2).
- 15 It helps in setting a leg that's broken: can end in cure (8).
- 16 Village hero (6).
- 18 Recompense the artist Turner (6).
- 20 Fix puncture — a minor irritation (3,5).
- 23 Bird seen to behave amorously more than once (9).
- 24 Old-fashioned American muffin — cake-like, to some extent (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,869



DOWN

- 2 I don't like your leads, but in vain (4).
- 7 Rival good, but short of one skill (10).
- 20 Not a single sister, by the sound of it (4).
- 29 Pong is softened, modified (10).
- 1 Plant cut back (4).
- 2 Leaflets could be lofter (7).
- 3 Surprising gentry with tinier token of affection (8,4).
- 4 Benefit entirely absorbed by regular outgoing — that stinks! (8).
- 5 Mothball used where larva is found (6).
- 7 'Criminal', I shall say, 'Gangster' (7).
- 8 Mr. Grimes and his like conduct a lottery (10).
- 11 Sorry girl's given the job (12).
- 14 Put out, group leader organises an attack (10).
- 17 Left in poor health, I acquire place in the country (8).
- 19 Court — girl turned up in a sweater (7).
- 21 Make cross part of religious ceremonial (7).
- 22 Wrap novel concerning love (6).
- 25 Birds think our loud (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0931 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of London	702
South East	703
West of London	704
West Midlands	705
East Midlands	706
North East	707
North West	708
Yorkshire	709
West Yorkshire	710
South West	711
Wales	712
Scotland	713
North Scotland	714
Central Scotland	715
South Scotland	716
London & SE England	717
Wales & SW England	718
Scotland & NE England	719
Wales & NW England	720
London & SE England	721
Wales & SW England	722
Scotland & NE England	723
Wales & NW England	724
London & SE England	725
Wales & SW England	726
Scotland & NE England	727
Wales & NW England	728

AA ROADWATCH

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Region	Code
London & SE England	731
Wales & SW England	732
Scotland & NE England	733
Wales & NW England	734
London & SE England	735
Wales & SW England	736
Scotland & NE England	737
Wales & NW England	738
London & SE England	739
Wales & SW England	740
Scotland & NE England	741
Wales & NW England	742
London & SE England	743
Wales & SW England	744
Scotland & NE England	745
Wales & NW England	746
London & SE England	747
Wales & SW England	748
Scotland & NE England	749
Wales & NW England	750

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Thorney Island, West Sussex, 20°C (68°F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 10°C (50°F); highest rainfall: Burton-on-the-Warfe, Gloucestershire, 0.52in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 13.5hr.

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FORECAST

General: southwest England and Wales will be cloudy with patchy rain and drizzle from late morning onwards. The rest of Wales and central parts of England will be largely dry and bright with some sunshine.

East of London, SW Scotland, light showers. Western Scotland and northern Ireland will be rather cloudy but largely dry. However, northern parts of Scotland will have outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Eastern Scotland will be brighter with some sunshine but also a few scattered, light showers.

London, Central N, NW, Central S, SE England, E, W Midlands, Wales, Lake District: dry with sunny intervals. Wind northwest, light. Max 18°C (64°F).

■ **ANGLE, NE, E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** sunny intervals and scattered showers. Wind northwest light. Max 18°C (64°F).

■ **Channel Isles, SW England:** rather cloudy. Patchy rain and drizzle. Wind west to northwest light. Max 17°C (63°F).

■ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** mainly dry but rather cloudy. Wind northwest light to moderate. Max 16°C (61°F).

■ **NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Coastal fog. Wind north to northwest light or moderate. Max 14°C (57°F).

■ **Outlook:** fairly cloudy, though some sunny spells. Showers or outbreaks of rain.

■ **Pollen count:** Scotland L; North-east England L; N Ireland L; Midlands L; East Anglia M; Wales L; South East M; South West L; London L. H=high, L=low M=moderate.

AROUND BRITAIN

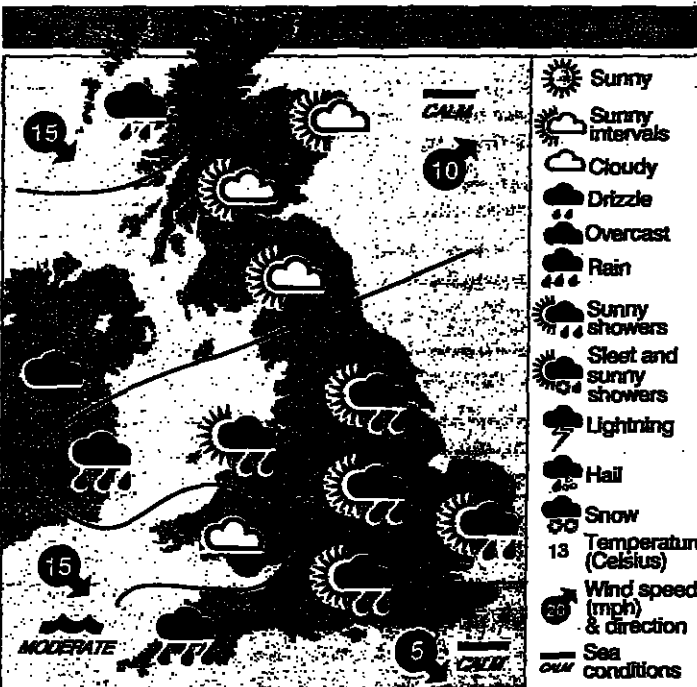
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15	SW	Cloudy
Edinburgh	12	W	Cloudy
Belfast	10	W	Cloudy
Cardiff	12	W	Cloudy
Manchester	14	W	Cloudy
Sheffield	14	W	Cloudy
Nottingham	14	W	Cloudy
Leeds	14	W	Cloudy
Birmingham	14	W	Cloudy
Coventry	14	W	Cloudy
Southampton	14	W	Cloudy
Exeter	14	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy

ABROAD

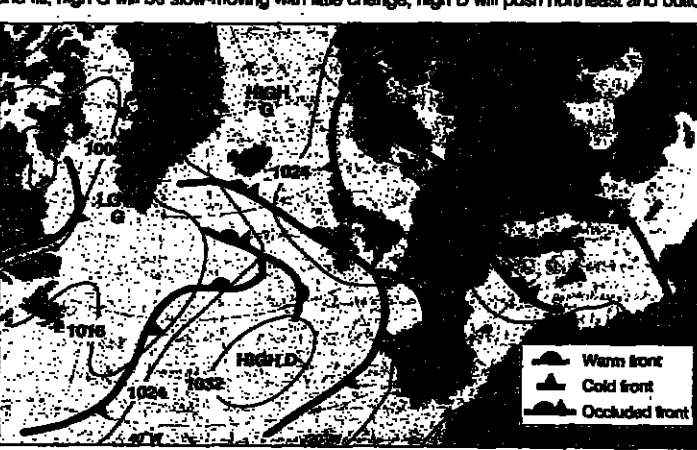
City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Paris	15	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy
Edinburgh	12	W	Cloudy
Belfast	10	W	Cloudy
Cardiff	12	W	Cloudy
Manchester	14	W	Cloudy
Sheffield	14	W	Cloudy
Nottingham	14	W	Cloudy
Leeds	14	W	Cloudy
Birmingham	14	W	Cloudy
Coventry	14	W	Cloudy
Southampton	14	W	Cloudy
Exeter	14	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Paris	15	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy
Edinburgh	12	W	Cloudy
Belfast	10	W	Cloudy
Cardiff	12	W	Cloudy
Manchester	14	W	Cloudy
Sheffield	14	W	Cloudy
Nottingham	14	W	Cloudy
Leeds	14	W	Cloudy
Birmingham	14	W	Cloudy
Coventry	14	W	Cloudy
Southampton	14	W	Cloudy
Exeter	14	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy



Changes to chart below from noon: low F will be slow-moving and fill; low G will edge north and fill; high G will be slow-moving with little change; high D will push northeast and build.



City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Paris	15	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy
Edinburgh	12	W	Cloudy
Belfast	10	W	Cloudy
Cardiff	12	W	Cloudy
Manchester	14	W	Cloudy
Sheffield	14	W	Cloudy
Nottingham	14	W	Cloudy
Leeds	14	W	Cloudy
Birmingham	14	W	Cloudy
Coventry	14	W	Cloudy
Southampton	14	W	Cloudy
Exeter	14	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Paris	15	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy
Edinburgh	12	W	Cloudy
Belfast	10	W	Cloudy
Cardiff	12	W	Cloudy
Manchester	14	W	Cloudy
Sheffield	14	W	Cloudy
Nottingham	14	W	Cloudy
Leeds	14	W	Cloudy
Birmingham	14	W	Cloudy
Coventry	14	W	Cloudy
Southampton	14	W	Cloudy
Exeter	14	W	Cloudy
London	15	SW	Cloudy

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Why America and Europe should escape recession

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Elizabeth Hurley is no Sarah Bernhardt

SPORT 42-48

Sampras feels pain of defeat in Paris Open

ACKROYD ON RALEIGH AND EL DORADO Books 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JUNE 1 1995

Regulator 'has cost British Gas £3bn'

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTENING regulation since privatisation has cost British Gas £3 billion in lost profits, Richard Giordano, chairman, said yesterday. Detailing the company's declining share of industrial and commercial markets to investors at the company's annual meeting, Mr Giordano said profits had fallen in each of the past four years. "Now we must move very fast indeed in order to be able to be ready for competition we shall soon see in the domestic gas market," he said. Halting the decline and stabilising the earnings and cash flow from the UK gas business was the cornerstone of the company's strategy. But growth must come from overseas. Oil and gas exploration and production was now a large part of the business, accounting for 28 per cent of operating profits last year. The board had four tasks, he told more than 4,500 shareholders gathered in the

London Arena. It must see through the restructuring needed to arrest the decline in the company's performance. It must achieve regulatory stability over the next two to three years. It must "deepen the commercial resources of British Gas management... so we can move forward to implement what will be an ambitious international strategy." And the top management must focus strategies more sharply than it had in the past.

Mr Giordano made no concessions to shareholders over pay rises awarded to executive directors, however. Despite intense hostility focused on the 75 per cent rise, to £475,000, given to chief executive Cedric Brown, protests from the 4,500 shareholders in attendance were crushed by the massive voting power vested in the board by institutions.

Angry shareholders, page 1



Some are more equal than others: British Gas workers picketed yesterday's annual meeting with the help of a pig, christened Cedric for the day

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FT-SE 100	3318.4 (+9.5)
Yield	4.15%
FT-SE All share	1032.58 (+1.82)
Nikkei	15436.79 (+325.16)
New York	
Dow Jones	4398.74 (+20.08)
S&P Composite	525.58 (+3.00)
ON RATE	
Federal Funds	6.5% (6.5%)
Long Bond	112.5% (112.5%)
Yield	6.85% (6.85%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	6.5% (6.5%)
Life long gilt	107% (107%)
STERLING	
New York	
\$	1.5870* (1.6015)
London	1.5885 (1.6015)
DM	2.2423 (2.2218)
FF	7.8710 (7.8400)
Sfr	1.2607 (1.2514)
Yen	154.22 (152.79)
E Index	84.3 (84.0)
DOLLAR	
London	1.4130* (1.3883)
DM	4.9815* (4.8965)
FF	1.1678* (1.1445)
Yen	84.50* (82.73)
E Index	86.7 (87.7)
Tokyo close Yen 83.25	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.30 (\$17.40)
GOLD	
London close	\$384.25 (\$384.55)
* denotes midday trading price	

Kingfisher and Pru investors speak out

By SARAH BAGNALL AND SARAH MCCONNELL

KINGFISHER, the retail group that ousted four directors this year, faced a lively annual meeting yesterday, during which shareholders expressed puzzlement over the divergent paths of executive pay and the group's performance. James Edwards, a shareholder, said: "It seems to me that pay at the top is spiralling upwards as profits spiral downwards." Kingfisher, which includes B&Q, Woolworths and Comet, saw profits fall from £309 million to £244 million in the year to January 28. In the same year, directors' total pay rose slightly, although the pay of Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, fell from £1.3 million to under £1 million. Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, said sales from continuing businesses rose 5 per cent in the 13 weeks to April 29, but Comet, the electrical chain, was expected to make a bigger interim loss.

Meanwhile, shareholders in the Prudential gave their board an easy ride at the annual meeting. Any awkward questions about pay or pensions' mis-selling were effectively stifled by the reminder that pre-tax profits of £603 million had been made last year. Only four questioners dared break the quiet mood of the meeting. One questioner demanded to know whether the board had kept its auditors fully informed of the "material facts" of its exposure to mis-selling of personal pensions and how many policies were involved. Sir Brian Corby, the Pru's outgoing chairman, put on a brave face: "We are not yet in a position to quantify the extent of mis-selling, and, therefore of compensation," he said. *Temper, page 28*

Central banks act to bolster dollar

By JIMMY FISH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE world's central banks stepped in to support the dollar yesterday, in a move that was only a limited success. The US Federal Reserve was joined by the Bundesbank, the Bank of Japan and several other European central banks, including the Bank of England, in repeated and aggressive waves of dollar-buying against the mark and the yen.

Robert Biffin, US Treasury Secretary, said yesterday's moves were in line with the exchange rate objectives outlined in the April 25 communiqué of the G7 in Washington that expressed concern that weakness in the dollar did not reflect economic fundamentals.

The buying started soon after US markets opened and in the immediate aftermath of figures showing a surprising downward revision of US

gross domestic product from 2.3 per cent to 1.8 per cent, estimated at about \$2 billion.

However, the dollar bounced only a limited way. Before the intervention, it had been trading at about DM1.3850 and ¥82.50. It then hit highs of DM1.4190 and ¥85.30, but started sliding back again as London markets closed to trade at about DM1.4120 and ¥84.50.

Tony Nordfield, treasury economist at ABN-Amro in London, said: "This has provided a useful blip up in the dollar, but I don't believe the intervention has worked and the effect will be short-lived."

The action came out of the blue for traders, who had come to discount intervention as a policy option. An aggressive attempt by the Fed to support the dollar last May signally failed to have any effect, as did more modest

efforts in March and April. Yesterday's effort had some elements in its favour, not least that last week's sudden plunge in the dollar had left traders with very large short positions. The stage was set for a classic "bear squeeze".

Julian Jessop, international economist at HSBC Markets, said the move appeared to be a way of reminding the markets that the dollar was a two-way bet, but he did not regard it as successful. He added: "I think the central banks have tried to be clever, but this has been lost on the markets."

There were many interpretations of yesterday's move. Some saw it simply as a worried response to last week's dollar slump after a period of apparent stability and a bid for currency stability before the G7 meets in Halifax, Nova Scotia, later this month.

Some dealers speculated that the Fed already had sight

of tomorrow's non-farm payroll figures and that these were very weak. A more mainstream view was that the Bundesbank may be preparing to cut interest rates as part of an attempt to protect the German economy from the ravages of a very strong mark.

The Bundesbank's policy-making council meets today and could conceivably cut its repo rate. However, the German central bank left the repo unchanged yesterday and some economists believe it may wait until its next meeting on June 14 to announce any rate cut. This would have the advantage of coming just before the G7 summit.

The pound was dragged up by the dollar, ending at 84.3 against a basket of currencies, compared with 84.0 at Tuesday's close.

William Rice-Mogg, page 20
Pennington, page 25
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

Kerkorian drops bid for Chrysler

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

KIRK KERKORIAN, the secretive billionaire who astonished Wall Street in April with his bid for the Chrysler Corporation, yesterday said that he wanted to reconsider his options and withdrew the \$22.8 billion offer for America's third-largest carmaker. Tracinda, the Kerkorian company, which owns the largest single stake in Chrysler, said that its shares were not for sale as Chrysler stock slipped 50 per cent to \$42.125 in early trading in New York. In April, with the backing of Lee Iacocca, the former chairman of Chrysler, Mr Kerkorian said that he would bid for the remaining 90 per cent. It was the largest single takeover bid since RJR Nabisco was bought more than six years ago for \$25 billion.

Chrysler rejected the infor-

mal \$55-a-share offer, saying that it was not for sale and that its directors did not want to put the company at risk. Mr Kerkorian, 77, was unable subsequently to line up investors to make the deal happen. Yesterday, Alex Yemendjian, an executive for Mr Kerkorian, said that the proposal was being withdrawn, but that there were no plans to change Tracinda's goals. He said: "We have been Chrysler's largest shareholder for nearly five years and remain committed to maximising value for all shareholders while keeping the company well managed, conservatively financed and fully competitive... Withdrawing our offer will permit us to take a fresh look at the situation and evaluate our alternatives."

Pennington, page 25

Off the rails

Eurotunnel warned its shareholders yesterday that the company is heading for a showdown with its banks this autumn when it reaches the end of its funding facilities. Sir Alastair Morton, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel, said: "Our banks will ask us some very searching questions in three to four months time." *Page 26*

Dropped stitch

Dawson International, the Scottish knitwear group, said that short-term profits' growth would be hit by rising prices of cashmere, wool and cotton coupled with low consumer confidence and strong competition. *Report 27, Tempus 28*

Tokyo shares tumble as Expo 96 is scrapped

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

SHARE prices in Tokyo yesterday fell to their lowest level since 1992, partly in response to a decision by the Governor of Tokyo to cancel an international exposition scheduled for next year.

Yukio Aoshima, who was elected governor recently, announced that he would stand by his campaign pledge to cancel the World City Expo 96.

The 204-day event was to have involved the United Nations and the private and public sectors in leading cities throughout the world, including London. Pavilions, office blocks and other buildings for

the exposition are under construction.

The benchmark Nikkei index of 225 selected issues fell sharply after Mr Aoshima's announcement, at one stage losing 470 points to reach a record low for the year. The index recovered slightly to close at 15,436.79, down 326.18 points from Tuesday's close.

Traders, however, said that growing concerns about Japan's economy would continue to drag down share prices. Some predicted the index could reach 14,500 in the near future. Wednesday's stock market slump came after the

release on Tuesday of weak economic data for April.

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urged the Government to compensate companies and business organisations for losses related to the cancellation.

He said many companies and organisations had invested large amounts of capital in the project since 1990, when plans were first drawn up.

Japan's looming trade war with America and the renewed surge of the yen against the dollar are adding to Tokyo's concerns.

Hogg joins economic consultants

BARONESS HOGG, the former head of John Major's policy unit, who left Number Ten last February, is to become a director of London Economics, the economic consultancy, from September.

The former Sarah Hogg will work on two major projects on European competitiveness and the internal market, and she will lead a team assessing the impact of regulation on business. She will also be involved in industrial restructuring in developing countries.

She started at Number Ten in December 1990 after a media career that included a spell as economics editor of *The Times*.

Bae rejoins takeover battle for VSEL

By ROSS TIEMAN

BRITISH AEROSPACE yesterday launched a renewed bid for VSEL, Britain's largest warship builder. The offer, worth £578 million, sets the scene for BAE to resume its battle with GEC for domination of Britain's defence industry.

BAE's renewed terms are identical to those that it posed when its last offer, together with that of GEC, was referred to the Monopolies Commission on December 7. But nine days ago Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, rejected a majority recommendation from the MMC that GEC be blocked, and cleared both companies to bid again. VSEL shareholders are being offered

3.3 new shares in BAE in exchange for each of their VSEL shares, with a cash alternative of £16. VSEL, which would like a larger partner to underwrite its forthcoming £5.5 billion bid to build five Trafalgar class nuclear submarines, advised shareholders to take no action. Under the City takeover code, GEC has a further 12 days to launch a new offer.

Dick Evans, BAE's chief executive, said buying VSEL would enhance BAE's position as Europe's leading defence company by adding warships to its portfolio of aircraft, missiles and guns. BAE's international marketing network would improve VSEL's chances of winning export orders, while sheltering the company's profits from tax.

VSEL's directors have insisted they do not mind whether BAE or GEC becomes their new owner. BAE's bid for VSEL poses a threat to the warship business of GEC's defence subsidiary, GEC-Marconi. GEC is already leading a consortium bidding against VSEL for the Trafalgar order. The MMC inquiry decided that MoD work alone was unlikely to sustain activity both at VSEL and at GEC-Marconi's Yarrow yard on the Clyde.

GEC has long had ambitions to join its defence business to that of BAE. A standstill agreement, that prevents GEC bidding for BAE, expires on June 30.

Pennington, page 27
Business letters, page 29

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Name on Card Exp. Date

Signed Daytime phone No Delivery: please allow 28 days

TIM 32

North-South divide narrowed by recession

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE South East of England remains the United Kingdom's wealthiest region but the traditional North-South divide has narrowed, backing up claims that the South was disproportionately hit during the last recession.

These are some of the messages to emerge from the Central Statistical Office's regional accounts for 1993 that track personal income per head and consumer spending.

The South East, with 30 per cent of Britain's population, accounted for nearly 35 per cent of total UK personal income in 1993. The share of personal income per head of population in Greater London — at £11,982 — was about 21

per cent higher than the national average of £9,890. Consumer spending in Greater London was £8,555 per head in 1993, the highest in Britain, and was more than 23 per cent higher than the UK national average.

In contrast, income per head in Wales was £8,655, 12 per cent lower than the national average; in Northern Ireland it was £8,611, 13 per cent below the average.

These regional winners and losers show little change from the broad trends obvious for some years. However, the CSO figures show that there has been some narrowing of the gap between the richest and poorest regions.

In the ten years from 1983 to 1993, Greater London and the rest of the South East have seen declines in personal income relative to the

average, particularly in the last four to five years. This appears to reflect the severity of the recession in the region.

Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the North and North West all saw declines compared with the average in the first half of the decade, but all showed significant increases — clearly at the expense of traditionally better off regions — in the second half. East Anglia and Scotland now appear to have established positions above the UK average with Scotland rising in each of the last four years.

In the last four years of available statistics from 1988 to 1992, some counties have seen dramatic changes in their positioning on household income per head, compared with the UK average. The largest increases in this

period were in Northumberland and Tayside, up from 90 per cent and 95 per cent respectively to 99 per cent and 104 per cent. Surrey, although still the richest county, fell from 143 per cent of the national average to 126 per cent.

The CSO differentiates between income derived from wages and other sources of income. In Greater London, about 61 per cent of household income per person came from wages and salaries, compared with about 51 per cent in Wales. Social Security accounted for about 13 per cent of household incomes per head in Northern Ireland, compared with about 8 per cent for the UK as a whole. However, the CSO noted that Northern Ireland has a higher proportion of children under 16 than any other region in the United Kingdom.

Eurotunnel set for autumn bank showdown

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EMBATTLED Eurotunnel shareholders yesterday warned that the company is heading for a showdown with its banks this autumn when it reaches the end of its funding facilities.

Speaking at Eurotunnel's annual meeting, in London, Sir Alastair Morton, the co-chairman, said: "Our banks will ask us some very searching questions in three to four months' time."

Sir Alastair, who astonished investors in April with a warning that the company risked being "overwhelmed" by its £8

billion debt burden, said that tough negotiations with the 225-bank syndicate would begin in the late summer.

He dismissed speculation that the company was facing imminent financial collapse. "We do not intend going bust this autumn," he told several hundred shareholders gathered at Westminster Central Hall.

Sir Alastair predicted that the banks will claim that the company's projected cash flow through to the end of 1999 is insufficient to meet its £2 million-a-day interest bill.

"It is not possible to say whether they are wrong or right," said Sir Alastair, who was given a warm reception by shareholders. "The answer does not lie in seeking yet more debt... The answer lies in reducing the annual interest costs."

All options to achieve this goal, including agreeing lower rates of interest with the banks, or refinancing existing debt with lower-cost debt, were open, Sir Alastair said, although he ruled out a further rights issue. The company's future could also be secured by a successful arbitration in its £2 billion legal dispute with the French and British operators of Eurostar.

Eurotunnel will effectively run out of funds at the end of October, when the banks will decide whether, and on what terms, to extend the debt facility. They have granted Eurotunnel £300 million to see it through its first crucial summer. The banks will decide in autumn whether to extend a further £400 million to cover Eurotunnel's financial needs until the end of next summer.

The banks had already received £615 million in fees and interest margin on money they

had lent Eurotunnel, whereas shareholders had yet to receive a penny of dividend, Sir Alastair said.

George Christian Chazot, the chief executive, said that Eurotunnel was now the market leader on the freight service between Dover and Calais, capturing 35 per cent of the market. On the passenger service, Le Shuttle had reached 30 per cent of the Dover/Calais market. The Easter weekend had seen record levels of business with more than 22,000 vehicles passing through the tunnel over the holiday weekend.

On July 10 Le Shuttle would be stepping up its passenger services from the current two an hour during peak hours to three an hour and four during the busiest periods. From July 2 Eurostar services between Waterloo and Paris and Brussels would be stepped up from 20 a day to 30 a day.

Graham Corbett, Eurotunnel's chief financial officer, said that the company's revenues were already covering its operating costs and would exceed all non-interest costs by next month. He also announced that the proportion of sterling debt at fixed rates had been increased from 46 per cent to 50 per cent, while the proportion of French franc fixed rate debt had increased from 24 per cent to 33 per cent. Despite lower than projected revenues, Eurotunnel had succeeded in preserving its cash resources through cost reductions, he told shareholders.

Eurotunnel is still operating only six of the nine Le Shuttle passenger trains ordered because of late delivery by the manufacturers. The final three are due to be brought into service in July. Eurotunnel shares fell 6p to 182p.



Paying the piper: Lord Younger of Prestwick, chairman, of the Royal Bank of Scotland, prepares for the opening of the bank's new London headquarters

Video on demand to be tested

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THREE UK cable companies are to start video-on-demand and interactive television trials this year.

Bell Cablemedia, Nynex Cablecom and TeleWest Communications hope that the project will help to establish standards allowing creation of a single, national network of multimedia broadband services.

The trial, expected to last 18 months to two years, will include laboratory tests, a technical field trial and a market trial in at least 2,000 paying customers' homes. Services will include home shopping and banking, advertising, education and public information. The three participants said they hope for approaches from other cable companies.

Alan Bates, chief executive of Bell Cablemedia, said: "The UK cable communications industry is building the superhighway today. This endeavour between three leading cable operating companies will assist in enabling products and services to be developed and trialled on behalf of the industry as a whole."

The alliance follows the launch of two other video-on-demand trials, one by British Telecom in Colchester and Ipswich and another by Cambridge Cable and Online Media in Cambridge.

Video-on-demand is also being tested by British Telecom, and by Cambridge Cable and Online Media.

Candy 'will develop Hoover brand name'

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT



Foust lost his job

CANDY, the Italian white goods maker that is buying the European arm of Hoover for £106 million from Maytag of America, will develop the brand as a separate entity, according to Peppino Fumagalli, Candy's founder-chairman.

In London yesterday, after successfully beating five rivals to secure Hoover, Signor Fumagalli said that he had given personal assurances to the president of Maytag that Candy would "continue and develop the Hoover name".

"We are not asset strippers," he said, pointing out that since it acquired the Kelvinator refrigerator business on the Wirral 15 years ago, Candy had increased

production there by 500 per cent. It now has 7.5 per cent of the UK refrigerator market, putting it in third place.

Signor Fumagalli, whose family-owned business started 50 years ago at Monza, said he intended to market Hoover across Europe as a "top of the range" brand. The deal gives the Italian company, Europe's seventh-largest domestic appliance maker, its first venture into vacuum cleaners and makes it instant UK market leader.

Signor Fumagalli said the deal with Maytag was struck before the news that Hoover Europe, based in Merthyr Tydfil, had failed to stop a mass legal action over its ill-fated "free flights" promotion that has so far cost the company £48 million. Candy considered any liabilities arising

from the court cases as a "problem of the past", Signor Fumagalli said. "And we have a cast-iron guarantee from Maytag that they will look after the liabilities." Lawyers have said that the compensation cases could cost Maytag millions of pounds. William Foust was dismissed from his £500,000 a year job as president of Hoover Europe for his role in the flights scheme, which promised air tickets for purchasers of Hoover appliances.

Signor Fumagalli said the cash purchase of Hoover Europe would be funded from his company's own resources. No borrowing was needed, as the company had made a profit every year since it started and was performing strongly.

Barclays Bank staff to discuss new action

OFFICIALS of the Barclays Bank staff union meet today to discuss further industrial action after Tuesday's 24-hour strike, called to protest against the bank's decision to impose a 2.75 per cent pay deal on clerical workers. The argument between the bank and the union over the extent of the strike continued yesterday, with Unifi, the union, claiming that the response to the action "exceeded all expectations": 400 branches closed and 20,000 staff went on strike. Barclays called the figures "a fantasy". A spokesman said that 230 branches had been closed, with no more than 6,000 employees striking.

Barclays accused Unifi of not having its members' interests at heart: "Employees who stayed away from work will lose a day's pay and a day's other benefits. Does the union want us to stop the pay of 20,000 workers, or 6,000? Unifi, which wants a 5 per cent rise, yesterday wrote to Barclays seeking a resumption of pay talks. However, the bank, which has awarded rises of up to 18.5 per cent to top executives, said that it had no intention of reopening negotiations. A letter from branch managers to strikers indicates that the bank reserves the right to dismiss them if they take further industrial action."

EBRD invests more

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, criticised in the past for being slow to provide money for its target economies in the former Soviet bloc, increased disbursements by 238 per cent in the first quarter this year to 247 million euros (£205 million). Operating profits before provisions rose to 7.4 million euros from 2.9 million euros, but provisions of 12.2 million euros saw a net loss of 4.8 million euros. Bart le Blanc, vice-president with responsibility for finance, said: "The significant increase in operating profit is satisfactory."

Leeds Group catches up

A STRONG second quarter helped Leeds Group, the West Yorkshire textile dyer and printer, to make up for a slow start to the year after unseasonably warm weather in October and November. Pre-tax profits climbed to £3.61 million in the six months to March 31, up from £3.41 million last time, as turnover grew by 18.6 per cent to £31.3 million. There is an improved interim dividend of 2.2p (2.1p), due on July 3, from earnings ahead to 8.3p (8p) a share. Robert Wade, chairman, said the increase in the interim dividend reflects "confidence that we shall continue to find the means to maintain our growth".

New head for Alcatel

SERGE TCHURUK, who turned round Total, the state-controlled French oil company, is to head Alcatel Alsthom, the troubled French telecommunication and engineering group being investigated for corruption. He replaces Pierre Suard, who has, pending inquiries, been banned from acting as president of Alcatel France's second-biggest industrial company, by magistrates investigating alleged overbidding. M Suard denies wrongdoing. Alcatel has a successful engineering joint venture, GEC-Alsthom, with GEC. M Tchuruk will be succeeded at Total by Thierry Desmarest.

Quadramatic advances

RICHARD WILLIAMS, chief executive of Quadramatic, manufacturers of coin handling equipment, moulded products and plastic lenses, is optimistic after strong exports, growth and past acquisitions helped the specialist engineer to a 31 per cent advance in first-half profits. Pre-tax profits jumped to £4.87 million in the six months to March 31, against £3.72 million last time. Turnover expanded by 30 per cent to £22.9 million. The interim dividend is raised by 28 per cent to 3.3p (2.5p) and is payable on July 14. Earnings were ahead 20.6 per cent to 7.6p (6.3p) a share.

Rodime secures finance

RODIME, the Scottish disc-drive group which is involved in a string of complex and protracted patent litigations in America over its hard disc technology, has secured additional bank finance while US court actions continue. The news accompanied reduced pre-tax losses of \$1.99 million in the six months to March 31, compared with a loss of \$5.29 million last time, reflecting lower administrative expenses and legal costs. No new licence agreements were reached during the period. The loss per share was trimmed to 1.5 cents (3.7 cents loss). There is again no dividend.

Eurofighter extra funds delayed

THE long-delayed Eurofighter 2000 combat plane project hit further difficulties yesterday when the budget committee of Germany's parliament put off a decision to nod through DM375 million extra (Colin Narbrough writes). Committee members decided that Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, had not provided sufficient information.

British Aerospace, the UK lead partner in the project, had been hoping for early approval in Germany of the extra funds to meet the costs of the programme's "reorientation".

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.35	2.19
Austria Sch	16.72	15.22
Belgium Fr	49.85	44.28
Canada C\$	2.303	2.143
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr	6.54	5.5
Finland Mk	7.45	6.5
France Fr	6.27	5.5
Germany DM	2.29	2.12
Greece Dr	377.00	352.00
Hong Kong \$	14.14	12.04
Ireland P	1.05	0.95
Israel NIS	5.297	4.577
Italy Lit	2700.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	148.00	132.00
Malta M	0.600	0.545
Netherlands Gld	2.82	2.42
Norway Kr	10.25	9.73
Portugal Esc	248.50	228.00
Spain Ptas	166.00	148.00
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.43
Switzerland Sfr	1.58	1.43
Turkey Lira	1.00	664.80
USA \$	1.70	1.570

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Deutsche Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
J H DENWORTH LIMITED
IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 40 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at the Royal Bank, 12, Southwark Street, London SE1 1TA on 14 June 1995 at 10.00am for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the company.

No. 001693 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES ACT 1986
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a Petition was on Monday 13th March 1995 presented to the Master of the High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the liquidation of the company named in the above-captioned notice.

No. 30172 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES ACT 1986
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a Petition was on 14th May 1995 presented to the Master of the High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the liquidation of the company named in the above-captioned notice.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ANGLO GOLD STORAGE A PRODUCT COMPANY LIMITED
IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 40 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at the Royal Bank, 12, Southwark Street, London SE1 1TA on 14 June 1995 at 10.00am for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the company.

BRITMART (PLASTERS) LIMITED
THE DISCOVERY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 40 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at the Royal Bank, 12, Southwark Street, London SE1 1TA on 14 June 1995 at 10.00am for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the company.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the liquidation of the company named in the above-captioned notice should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the liquidation of the company named in the above-captioned notice should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Arrears threaten 130,000 homes

By SARA MCCONNELL

MORE than a quarter of a million borrowers are still more than six months behind with their mortgage repayments and three quarters of these people have little chance of reducing their debts. Instead, 130,000 households face a "significant risk" of losing their homes, with little prospect of finding work that pays enough to make monthly payments and pay off arrears.

The figures, contained in a report published today by Shelter, the housing charity, will put renewed pressure on the Government to withdraw or amend proposals to reduce state help for out of work or ill borrowers from October. Opponents of the proposals say that numbers of arrears and repossessions will rise when the state safety net is removed.

Louise Casey, Shelter's director of housing services, said: "There is a prevailing misconception, aggravated by government complacency, that the repossession crisis of the early Nineties is over. All

the evidence from Shelter's report points to a different scenario, showing that if the Government proceeds with its plans to cut income support levels it will ensure that repossession becomes a well-developed permanent feature of the country's housing market and could generate the biggest repossession crisis yet."

Shelter called on the Government to introduce a mortgage benefit scheme to protect low-income borrowers as well as the unemployed. Under existing rules, mortgage borrowers with an income do not qualify for state help, in contrast with tenants on low incomes who get their rent paid by housing benefit. Shelter calculates that this would help 35 per cent of working home buyers in arrears. At the moment, they are caught in a "benefit" trap, where they are penalised by the immediate withdrawal of income support as soon as they find work. The proposed scheme would cost £600 million.

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arning as
Dawson
ges back
to black

MR Data
shares
nosedive

British Aerospace fires siting shot at VSEL □ Whitsun dollar offensive □ Chrysler drives away boarders

Submarine warfare

□ NOW the industrial and political arguments over the future of VSEL have been played out. The two protagonists are getting down to the gritty business of putting hard cash on the table. British Aerospace opened the bidding yesterday where it left off last autumn.

BAe's advisers have exercised considerable skill to reduce the group's disadvantage in the battle against GEC. The group's two-part response to the issue has provided the group with enough cash to trade in with an offer only a week after the MMC report was published, without having to endure the messy business of underwriting the cash alternative.

BAe also has the luck of the stock market behind it. The rise in its share price has made its paper offer look £2.47 per share more attractive than when it was first touted to shareholders six months ago. The downside is that BAe must support such an increase with a credible £16 a share cash alternative, but since VSEL's cash pile has swelled to more than £400 million, even that does not look too hard to swallow.

Speed and the bull market are not the only factors on BAe's side in this intriguing battle. VSEL was and still is worth more to BAe than GEC, since the group will be able to offset VSEL's

profits against its own copious tax losses and "undisposed" advance corporation tax. The City estimates this is worth around £250 a share to BAe, which is why the group is so confident that the deal will enhance its earnings from the outset.

BAe looks certain to fight like fury to win VSEL. The group is desperate to become a prime naval contractor and knows there will never be such an opportunity so cheap again. But in spite of its determination, the big battalions at GEC are daunting forces for any company to take on, particularly a company that has just emerged from a long and painful reorganisation.

GEC has, give or take, a cash pile of £3 billion. Admittedly "only" around half of this lies in the group's coffers. The rest sits in joint ventures and is relatively unreachable. Even so, Lord Westminster has £1.5 billion at his disposal, which makes anything that BAe can do in the capital markets look puny.

Lord Westminster has a horror of overpaying for anything, particularly after his acquisition of Plessey five years ago. The

financial logic of GEC bidding more than £17.50 looks questionable. But there are underlying benefits that may shake him into action. Defeating BAe in its bid for VSEL could badly destabilise the group. That could open the way for Lord Westminster's final coup, a takeover of BAe that would complete his group's development into an all-singing all-dancing defence contractor.

In straight financial terms, VSEL is worth more to BAe than its rival. But this issue over a Cambrian shipbuilder can no longer be judged in cash terms. Only Lord Westminster can now put a value on his ambitions for GEC.

War games that change real life

□ GUERRILLA warfare is becoming more subtle on the foreign exchanges. Last week, marauding bands of investment banks and hedge funds chose the Ascension Day lull to turn their sniper fire on the dollar, winking it on its take-off to recovery. Three weeks of confidence building collapsed overnight. The



combined dollar support forces of the international community struck back on a quiet post-Whitsun Wednesday, catching their opponents with their stocks of dollars down. On the Eastern front, they attacked at 82.75 yen, charged through 83.75 yen and had dollar bears in full retreat at 85 yen. In the muddier West, the dollar marched from DM1.38 to nearly DM1.42.

That sounds impressive, but does not really amount to much. The dollar was soon back from its advance positions and far short of its May best of almost 88 yen and DM1.4625. In May last year, when the New York Federal Reserve Bank mounted its last pre-summit defence of the dollar, it failed miserably, partly

because European allies were half-hearted.

In those days, the dollar stood above 100 yen and DM1.60. At that time, America wanted to convince itself, as much as anyone else, that the Fed's modest monetary tightening was leaving the economy in fine non-inflationary shape. In the event, it had to do quite a bit more. Partly as a result, the issues are bigger now. Currency imbalances and speculative attacks can actually affect which way the balance of interest rates moves internationally and therefore what rate of growth can be sustained in the world economy over the next couple of years.

Nowhere is the future direction of interest rates more uncertain than in Britain. Sterling is therefore accentuating its mid-Atlantic role, the pound playing Robin to the dollar's Batman.

The last big co-ordinated intervention two months ago went spectacularly wrong. That did not stop the dollar staging a perfectly natural resurgence a few weeks later, until last week's ambush. Whatever central bankers do, that upturn should re-

sume in coming months as investors yearn for peace and begin to chase income rather than speculative shadows.

Kerkorian fails to revive the 1980s

□ AFTER British Gas, the corporate governance circus moves on to Northern Electric. Tomorrow, an American investor hopes to persuade fellow shareholders to force a management waiver of the Takeover Code, and to put out their hands for Trafalgar House cash as soon as humanly possible.

The Northern episode is significant in three ways. It could mark the entry of American legalism into British bids. It exposed surpluses of financial fat that obliged the power regulator to recall his price review and made utilities more friendless.

Trafalgar's seemingly smart but ultimately naive offer also seemed to mark a new round of Anglo-Saxon takeover fever. That impression arose chiefly because it coincided with Las Vegas financier Kerk Kerkor-

ian's challenge to Chrysler, one of America's most prominent core manufacturing companies.

The Kerkorian "takeover bid" combined many of the clichés of the 1980s, not least its overtones of greenmail and the myopic desire to transfer cash built up in good years to shareholders' wallets, rather than to keep Chrysler healthy in the impending leaner days. If the Chrysler affair turns out to be symbolic, however, it will stand for burying those attitudes. Mr Kerkorian could not find backers for his megabid. Chrysler called his bluff. The "bid" has been abandoned, leaving the bidder still sore and sitting on a non-too-buoyant 10 per cent stake.

Shareholders in Northern Electric, together with regulators, now have their chance to reject a rerun of the 1980s.

Shell unsuited

□ SHELL'S stoic attempts to tough out its no-longer-discreet plan to sink the Brent Spar platform in mid-Atlantic are deservedly failing, though in this case investors are nowhere to be seen. Instead, after the Greenpeace occupation, Shell has incurred a hostile vote in Germany's Bundestag and calls for a German boycott of Shell products. It's a tough life for an out-of-date multinational.

Warning as Dawson edges back into black

By SARAH BAGNALL

DAWSON International, the knitwear group, gave a warning yesterday that short-term profits' growth would be restrained by rising raw material prices coupled with continuing low levels of consumer confidence and the competitive retail environment.

George Fairweather, the finance director, said: "The key issue is raw material prices, which have risen sharply in the last 18 months."

He added that higher prices for cashmere, wool and cotton were putting pressure on margins and causing uncertainty over demand.

Dawson, of which Derek Finlay is chairman, revealed a pre-tax profit of £1.7 million in the 53 weeks to April 1, compared with a loss of £98 million last time. The recovery was held back by an exceptionally mild winter, net restructuring charges of £22.4

million, and losses at Pringle of Scotland.

The fibres and yarns division lifted pre-tax profits by £200,000 to £183 million and the fabrics division's profits rose £3.2 million to £7.3 million. In contrast, Pringle's losses helped to push the UK apparel division into a loss of £3.6 million, compared with a profit of £6.5 million last time.

Mr Fairweather said that Pringle's problems reflected an over-rapid expansion that pushed up costs. An expected rise in sales failed to materialise, partly because of the mild weather in the northern hemisphere and depressed retail markets.

He said steps were being taken to restore the group's fortunes by controlling costs and reducing overheads. Of the £22.4 million net exceptional charge, £5 million relates to Pringle. A further £4.8 million relates to restructuring of the group's other on-going businesses.

The balance of £12.2 million relates to the group's discontinued businesses, which includes the loss-making US home fashions operations.

The discontinued businesses saw pre-tax losses improve from £24.6 million to £4.7 million, helped by the release of £5.8 million of provisions.

The final dividend was held at 1.5p, due on August 15, making an unchanged total for the year of 3p.



Finlay: losses at Pringle

Times, page 28

Property sales lift MEPC

By CARL MORTIMER

PROFITS from property sales helped MEPC to raise its half-year pre-tax result from £48 million to £60 million. The company sold £29 million of property in the six months to March 31, generating a gain of £6.9 million from the book value last September.

Disposals helped to fund £100 million of investment, including property development in the US, where MEPC is putting up 1.5 million sq ft of industrial buildings in Dallas and rebuilding the Northridge Fashion Centre, the shopping mall damaged in last year's Los Angeles earthquake.

James Tuckey, chief executive, said that more investments were planned in Britain, America and Europe, with a higher proportion overseas than at home.

New investments helped to boost net property income from £112 million to £129 million, but finance costs rose from £62 million to £70 million. Earnings per share rose from 8.3p to 10.1p. The interim dividend is again 5.25p.

Times, page 28

MR Data shares nosedive

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in MR Data Management Group dived 35p to 53p, wiping nearly £20 million off the value of the data storage and retrievals company, after a second profits warning in just over a year. The shares have crashed from more than £2 a year ago and a high of 128p this year.

MR's latest warning said that pre-tax profits for the year to June 30 will be about £3.5 million, after a £1.2 million exceptional charge, against last year's profit of £6.35 million. The exceptional charge includes a payment of about £450,000 for loss of office to former directors, £550,000 of reorganisation costs, and £245,000 for new business development. The £450,000 payment for loss of office to former directors is understood to involve Mike Elliott, the former chief executive, and Mike Bushell, a former director. Both have left in the past month.

The company said its profits, including divisional losses, were well below expectations resulting in disappointed divisions.

Stock market, page 28

MORSE

Sun, now a \$5bn company and no.1 in Unix.

Morse is now Europe's largest Open Systems reseller; also the fastest growing company in the UK.*

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The trend points away from mainframes, to smaller, more flexible client-server systems.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Box-reply bids for AI plate

WHATEVER else is said about BTR, it can't be accused of not trying to make every asset sweat. It is putting up for sale the prized AI car registration number — a simple asset for which most classic car buffs would happily break a leg. The price is £250,000. But then AI is the first registration ever issued in 1903 by London County Council and Earl Russell, then Under-Secretary for Air, quipped all night for the honour of being AI's first owner. Down the years, AI has belonged to John Bull, then Lord, then Lord, and since 1985, to BTR. Collectors' offers to buy it have been consistently turned down, but BTR is now inviting box-reply bids. AI is not currently attached to any vehicle. So why sell now? "It was a board decision. It's not part of our style to be high profile," a box number said.

Honours even?

LORD NOLAN is yet to look into the matter of contributions to political parties, but at Kingfisher's annual meeting yesterday a shareholder wanted to know "if our money is to be given to a political party, will shareholders be invited to ballot for MBEs or any other honours resulting?" To which Sir Nigel Mobbs, acting chairman, quipped: "I'm not sure its practicable, but who knows?"

MOTOROLA, BT, and United Colours of Benetton today launch a wacky communications product — the Benetton pager. The service works with code numbers, which the receiver deciphers, and includes messages such as "stop calling me", "it's late — come home", and "I'm pissed off with you".



"Cheerfulness by BT is charging by the second"

Golf croquet

NEW ground will be broken in the City next Monday when a demonstration game of golf croquet is played on the lawn at Exchange Square. Broad-gate, between Peter Hill, a director of Hambros Bank and chairman of Arsenal Football Club, and Malcolm Kilmins, chairman of Corney & Barrow. The wine bar group is sponsoring a golf croquet league in the City, starting on June 17.

Try harder

"COULD try harder" is the message to Chevron's management. An in-house survey on bosses' performance threw up several shortcomings. Almost half the staff felt management did not communicate openly and honestly, while nearly 30 per cent do not believe "senior management can handle today's business challenges".

MUSICAL chairs in the City include two defections from the equity futures desk at Goldman Sachs. Claire Marshall, four years at GS and previously five years at Citicorp, has joined Cazenove. Kleinwort Benson's External Equity Futures team, and Bill Russell has left GS for Salomon Brothers.

COLIN CAMPBELL

It is not in the nature of market economies to lurch from one recession into another

Yesterday's aggressive and, for once, successful intervention in the currency markets by the Bundesbank and the US Federal Reserve Board has added weight to an observation about the present state of the world economy that I have been making for some time. The recent weakness of the dollar, or rather the unhealthy strength of the mark and the yen, has posed as big a threat to Germany as it has to Japan and France.

If yesterday's move implies that the German and Japanese authorities have finally learnt their lesson and will start to take responsibility for their currencies' bad behaviour, the world could be set fair for a long and steady period of economic growth to rival the golden age of the 1950s and 1960s. If on the other hand, Japan and Germany (along with its client states in continental Europe) cling to their outdated policies of unremitting deflation, then the economic opportunities of the next decade will simply pass them by.

In Europe a serious danger does exist — not of an outright recession with falling output and rapidly rising unemployment, but of long-term stagnation similar to the miserable period of "Euroclerosis" that followed the recession of 1981 and did not end until 1988, when the Bundesbank finally reined in the inflation.

In America, by contrast, the fears of recession that have suddenly started to grip the markets are totally unfounded. Even though such scare-mongering is likely to intensify as the coming months should be seen only as a buying opportunity for hard-headed investors.

First let us look at America, where sentiment has shifted with almost comic abruptness from a near-universal fear of inflationary overheating six months ago to equally widespread horror about recession. Some of the same economists who were accusing the Fed of being "behind the curve" on inflation and predicting that interest rates would have to rise from the present 6 per cent to 8 or 9 per cent before the economy started "cooling" are now calling on the Fed to save the economy from recession by cutting rates.

The clearest indicator of the sudden change in sentiment is the money market's expectation of future interest rates. This has collapsed over the past few months. One way of gauging this is to look at the gap between the interest rates paid on two-year Treasury bonds and the rate on one-month money (see bottom right chart). In late 1994, investors were expecting rates

to rise sharply and therefore demanded 2 percentage points extra for tying up their money for two years. Today, the gap is negative: investors now believe that American interest rates are headed downwards; they are therefore willing to accept lower rates on bonds, fixed for two years, than on money.

The market may well be right to expect some easing in US interest rates before the end of the year. The American economy has slowed abruptly and will slow even further, but that does not mean that investors and businessmen in America should worry about the possibility of recession. The last recession ended only four years ago and a temporary slowdown at this stage was a perfectly predictable feature of the economic cycle. The fact that economists on Wall Street and the City failed to foresee this slowdown tells us less about the mysterious unpredictability of the economic cycle than about the bizarre hiring practices in the City and on Wall Street, where many a "chief economist" has not even seen a single economic cycle in his professional life.

It is simply not in the nature of market economies to lurch from one recession into another. Capitalism possesses a strong inherent dynamic. Once an economy starts pulling out of recession and starts to grow, the mutually reinforcing processes of consumption, investment and income growth acquire an inherent momentum which cannot be stopped, except by some powerful external force. Since the Second World War there has been virtually no example of a "spontaneous" recession in

Energy use and the quality of life

From Mr Anthony Phillips Sir, Mr Andrew Warren (Business Letter, May 17) is right to support energy conservation, but, in looking after the kilowatt-hours, we are in danger of losing sight of the gigajoules that are wasted. To most people, economic prosperity means more production, more sales, and more energy consumed. We are expected to travel more, and faster. Each five minutes saved on a journey costs a disproportionate increase in energy and fuel consumed, since power required varies roughly with the cube of the speed. Better roads, faster trains and improved air travel encourage more people to commute, and to commute over greater distances. Weekend breaks often mean trips to the Continent, and holidays are taken more frequently. And often involve vast distances. There are hidden knock-on effects: the need for more power, stationing more air terminals, more congestion

increased stress and greater pollution. Standard of living is confused with quality of life. Yet other changes, such as relentless advances in micro-electronics (more bytes per buck), offer enormous scope for reducing energy demands by lessening the need to travel for many folk, meanwhile providing economic benefits, less waste and improved life quality. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS, 32 Upper Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Shipyard ruling sinks tendering imperative

From Jill Chesworth Sir, Re today's reports in The Times (May 24) about Michael Heseltine over-ruling the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendations on the proposed bids by British Aerospace and GEC for VSEL. I am amazed that the competitive tendering imperative which has helped sink warship yards such as Swan Hunter seems to have been sunk. The MMC recommended that the GEC bid be blocked, mainly because it already owns Yarrow, the main war-

ship competitor to VSEL. If GEC win the battle for Barrow, it will own the two main competitors for MoD contracts — what price competitive tendering then! Yours faithfully, JILL CHESWORTH, 54 Damask Crescent, E16.

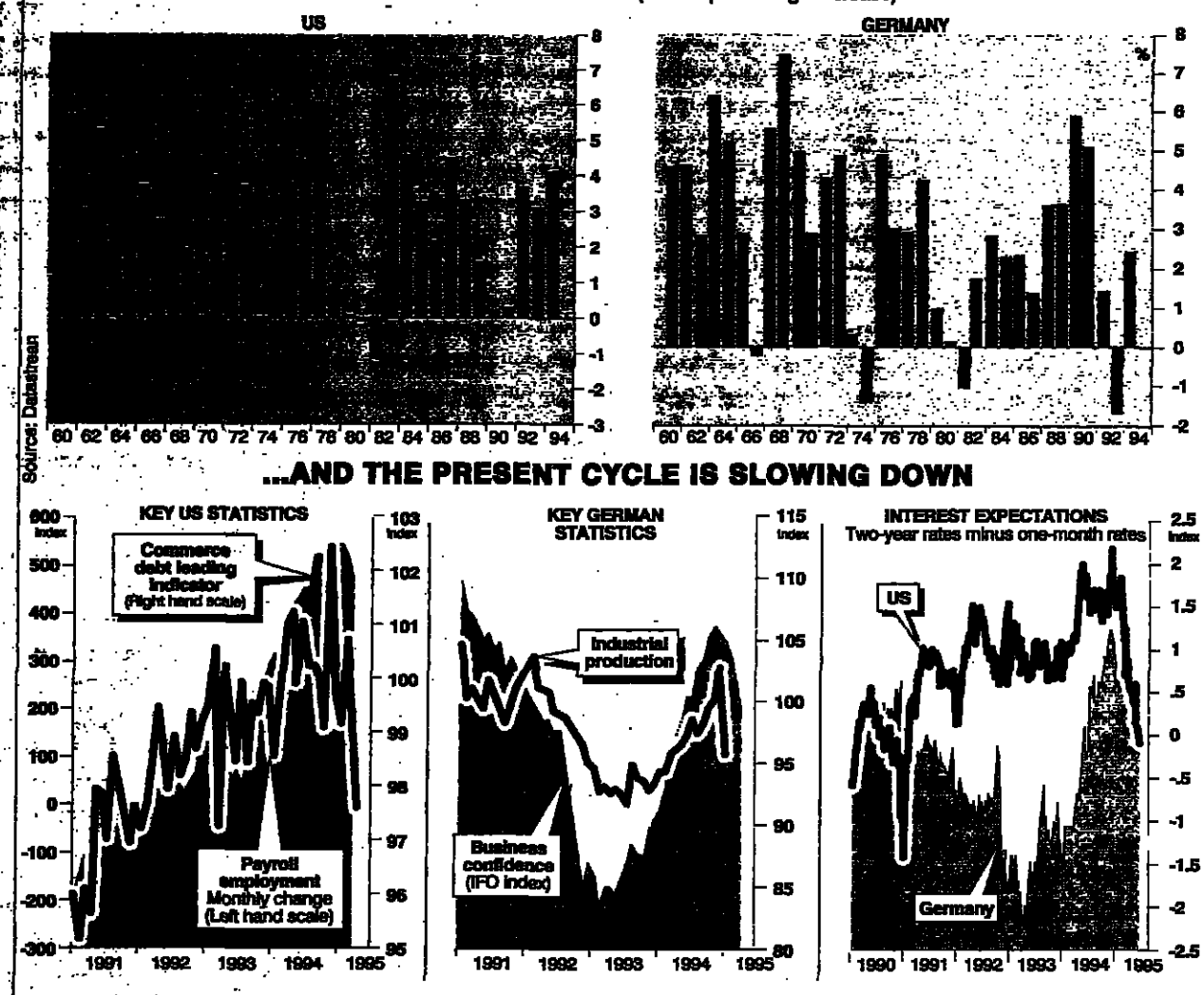
Another role awaits Bank of England

From Mr David Green Sir, How right of the Bank of England to upbraid the clearing banks for becoming over-competitive in a depressed lending market. Would it please put similar pressure on companies in the construction industry in case a few are tempted to reduce margins. Yours faithfully, DAVID GREEN, 60 Windmill Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex

Litigation ban in Lloyd's offer is unwelcome From Mr Tom Rodwell Sir, Whilst the potential Lloyd's settlement is to be applauded, the proviso that all litigation against Lloyd's should cease means that the cheats, fraudsters and incompetents at Lloyd's who caused the problems will get away scot-free, and the nonsense of self-regulation will continue. This can only increase the possibility of yet more Lloyd's-related chaos in the future. Yours faithfully, TOM RODWELL, Hazel Cottage, 110 Flusden, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Europe faces a threat of long-term stagnation

GROWTH ALWAYS MOVES IN CYCLES... GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (annual percentage increase)



mark would be allowed to rise forever and that the next move in German interest rates would be up. Now this consensus has abruptly changed. Bundesbank council members vie with each other to hint of lower interest rates, and the same market economists who were fretting two months ago about inflationary overheating are warning of an imminent recession if the Bundesbank fails to act.

In fact, however, the threat to Germany and its client states is more subtle, and therefore less certain to be averted. As in America, another recession is soon after 1992 is out of the question.

The threat that continental Europe does face is not of recession, but of long-term stagnation, with economic growth averaging about 2 per cent. Such a low growth rate would crush hopes of creating new jobs in such unemployment blackspots as France, Belgium and Denmark. More seriously for Europe's policy-making elites, who now seem completely inured to mass unemployment, a long period of Euroclerosis would make it extremely difficult for countries such as France and Belgium to improve their public finances. It would also imply a steady widening of America's lead over the European Union in terms of productivity, technology and both the quality and quantity of industrial capital employed. The danger for Europe is that the Bundesbank may actually be quite satisfied to see the west German economy expanding by only 2 per cent a year, since unemployment remains quite low in the western Laender. Wage inflation remains a problem, and the

Traders hope for a quiet life on T+3 day

David Cowen looks at the move by many markets to settle trades within three days

Eurobond traders gather today in Lisbon for their annual meeting, knowing that bonds are making something of a comeback, but hoping it will prove to be an uneventful day. Their desire for a quiet life is because it is also the day the Eurobond, US equities and other domestic securities markets move to settling their trades within three days (T+3).

The markets have been working towards shortened trade settlement cycles since 1987. Out of the rubble of the October crash was born the so-called Group of Thirty, formed to see how the markets could be made safer. It produced an over-optimistic but valuable report that has been the basis for change worldwide in building a new market mechanism.

Last year, Eurobond traders agreed at the International Securities Marketing Association (ISMA) meeting in New Orleans that the Eurobond markets would move to T+3 on June 1, 1995. The Securities and Ex-

change Commission (SEC) originally specified January 1, 1996, as the date for change, but brought it forward by six months.

The other domestic securities markets making a move to T+3 today are Belgium, Canada, The Netherlands and Sweden. Conspicuous by its absence is London, which is still in the building phase of the Crest replacement for the Taurus project. The clearing and settlement systems providers and central depositories such as Euroclear and Cede have been steeling themselves to meet higher than usual levels of settlement activity during the changeover period. They have asked market participants to avoid large transactions by splitting trading tickets into smaller portions.

John Langton, chief executive and secretary-general of ISMA, said: "This is an important step forward for the international securities market." But he added that T+3 may not be the "be all and end all" of shorter settlement. "We should not rule out the likelihood of the

settlement period being shortened further."

An SEC document on the change says: "Settlement of securities transactions on the fifth day after trade date (T+5) is largely a function of market custom and industry practice. Indeed, at one time other settlement periods were considered 'regular ways'."

What this report alludes to is that in the 1920s the New York Stock Exchange settled on T+1. Prior to 1953, the American Exchange settled on T+2, but then it slipped to T+5 by 1968. If the laggards among firms adjusting to the new environment have problems, they need not worry too much. There is broad agreement that where trades need extra time to settle, extensions will be permitted. The problems will become more acute, however, if there is a market failure combined with a number of participants not being up to speed with the new schedules. While the larger firms have made the move to T+3 part of their overall technology re-engineering process, the smaller firms have argued that the time cost and effort involved have militated against them. Thus these firms

do not have the adequate technical processes in place to interface with all their counter-parties. In 1987, we saw traders spitting deals into the back office and paper piling up. Today, we could see an electronic version of this, but with mismatches between systems and counter-parties. Calls for tighter transactions is a telling sign that the potential for a bottleneck is well understood, but a "market break" or "mini-crash" would compound the problem. In such a scenario, failing to settle rapid and large volumes of trades would be amplified and cause a wider systemic failure, turning a systems failure into a credit crunch.

A normal quiet market should allow today to pass without incident. The expected result: A new robust market infrastructure taking the financial system into the next century. But will the day pass quietly?

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[illegible][illegible]

...est gain

...tlement takes place ten business days after the date of the auction, but adjustments are made on the basis of middle prices.

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[illegible]

Price Changes are calculated on extend. Changes, yields and					
SY	1920	Low	Company	Price	Yld
				±	%
256	174	Boston Epy	256	-1	51.1
257	188	Boyer TV	221	-1	51.2
258	198	B. S. B.	197	-1	51.3
259	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	51.4
260	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	51.5
261	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	51.6
262	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	51.7
263	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	51.8
264	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	51.9
265	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.0
266	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.1
267	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.2
268	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.3
269	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.4
270	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.5
271	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.6
272	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.7
273	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.8
274	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	52.9
275	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.0
276	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.1
277	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.2
278	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.3
279	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.4
280	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.5
281	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.6
282	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.7
283	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.8
284	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	53.9
285	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.0
286	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.1
287	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.2
288	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.3
289	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.4
290	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.5
291	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.6
292	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.7
293	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.8
294	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	54.9
295	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.0
296	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.1
297	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.2
298	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.3
299	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.4
300	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.5
301	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.6
302	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.7
303	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.8
304	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	55.9
305	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.0
306	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.1
307	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.2
308	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.3
309	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.4
310	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.5
311	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.6
312	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.7
313	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.8
314	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	56.9
315	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.0
316	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.1
317	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.2
318	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.3
319	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.4
320	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.5
321	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.6
322	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.7
323	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.8
324	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	57.9
325	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.0
326	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.1
327	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.2
328	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.3
329	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.4
330	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.5
331	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.6
332	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.7
333	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.8
334	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	58.9
335	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.0
336	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.1
337	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.2
338	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.3
339	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.4
340	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.5
341	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.6
342	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.7
343	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.8
344	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	59.9
345	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.0
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347	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.2
348	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.3
349	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.4
350	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.5
351	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.6
352	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.7
353	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.8
354	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	60.9
355	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.0
356	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.1
357	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.2
358	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.3
359	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.4
360	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.5
361	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.6
362	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.7
363	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.8
364	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	61.9
365	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.0
366	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.1
367	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.2
368	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.3
369	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.4
370	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.5
371	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.6
372	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.7
373	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.8
374	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	62.9
375	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.0
376	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.1
377	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.2
378	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.3
379	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.4
380	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.5
381	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.6
382	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.7
383	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.8
384	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	63.9
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387	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	64.2
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389	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	64.4
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391	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	64.6
392	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	64.7
393	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	64.8
394	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	64.9
395	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.0
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397	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.2
398	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.3
399	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.4
400	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.5
401	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.6
402	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.7
403	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.8
404	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	65.9
405	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.0
406	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.1
407	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.2
408	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.3
409	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.4
410	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.5
411	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.6
412	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.7
413	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.8
414	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	66.9
415	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.0
416	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.1
417	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.2
418	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.3
419	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.4
420	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.5
421	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.6
422	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.7
423	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.8
424	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	67.9
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426	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.1
427	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.2
428	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.3
429	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.4
430	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.5
431	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.6
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433	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.8
434	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	68.9
435	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.0
436	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.1
437	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.2
438	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.3
439	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.4
440	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.5
441	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.6
442	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.7
443	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.8
444	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	69.9
445	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.0
446	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.1
447	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.2
448	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.3
449	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.4
450	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.5
451	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.6
452	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.7
453	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.8
454	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	70.9
455	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.0
456	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.1
457	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.2
458	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.3
459	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.4
460	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.5
461	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.6
462	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.7
463	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.8
464	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	71.9
465	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.0
466	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.1
467	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.2
468	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.3
469	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.4
470	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.5
471	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.6
472	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.7
473	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.8
474	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	72.9
475	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.0
476	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.1
477	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.2
478	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.3
479	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.4
480	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.5
481	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.6
482	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.7
483	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.8
484	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	73.9
485	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.0
486	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.1
487	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.2
488	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.3
489	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.4
490	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.5
491	240	B. S. B.	240	-1	74.6
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The task list for success

David Young finds out what company life is like after the head office lifeline has been severed

The audience at the recent conference on Management Buyouts at the Institute of Directors in London could be forgiven if they spent their homeward journey singing: "Who wants to be a millionaire — I do." Enthusiasm for MBOs has seldom been higher, and the willingness of the financial sector to back a sound idea never more apparent.

Companies such as Charterhouse Development Capital, Electra and Gresham Trust have the funds to back well thought-out schemes and, probably more importantly, an imaginative approach that can lead to financial packages being assembled which more traditional sources of finance are unable or unwilling to provide.

That does not mean every MBO plan will be greeted with open arms. Charterhouse Development Capital, which has played a lead role in many successful MBOs in recent years, turned down an invitation to become involved in a \$550 million (£343 million) buyout proposal for BP's nutrition business, although leading the successful buyout of British Bus.

Charterhouse, under director Jeremy Greenhalgh, has also tackled one of the more complex buyouts in recent years when it provided funding and advice to the Celtic Energy team which paid British Coal £120 million for its assets in South Wales. The deal had more of the characteristics of a business start-up than an MBO, as British Coal was selling a unit which had no sales and marketing department and no financial accounting and reporting system.

Mr Greenhalgh and his colleagues had to negotiate contracts for the sale of coal, locate a chairman as well as a managing director and group

business development director. These tasks were on top of normal sale and purchase negotiations and commercial and financial due diligence.

It is clear that the financial package is only one element of the MBO process. As Trevor Jones, managing director of Gresham Trust, explains, many managers find that life after an MBO is far harsher than they thought it ever would be. "It is therefore a prerequisite that the team have the necessary characteristics to survive in this new world." What they need, he says are grit, persistence, determination, steel and courage.

MBOs need the following: grit, courage, persistence, determination, and steel

"The fact is that an MBO company is completely and utterly independent and self-sufficient. The management are its primary owners — there is no one else to turn to when the going gets tough. There are no lifelines like a head office. Head offices, as the primary owners, would be mad to deny a lifeline to their asset — they have a vested interest in their subsidiaries' survival. But in an MBO it is very different: only the management are in that prime ownership position."

Management grit, however, is not enough, according to Mr Jones. "A buyout will not succeed without a thoroughly competent chief executive officer to run the independent business at a profit. It is therefore highly desirable to

have an MD with a successful, demonstrable track record as a CEO. You can undertake an MBO with an MD who has never held the post before, but the risk is obvious — financiers may even be persuaded to take on this risk, but common sense would say if you can avoid the risk do so."

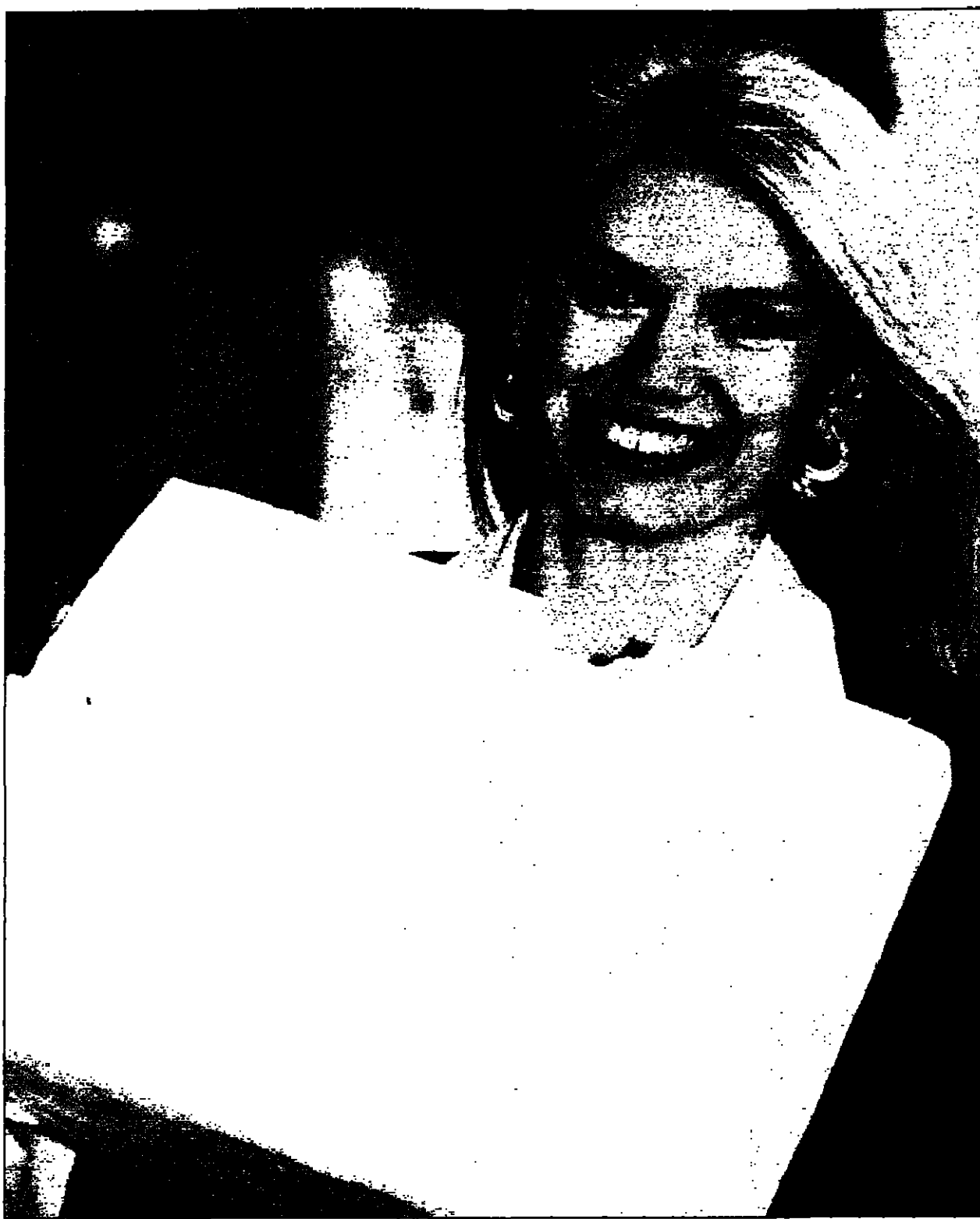
A high-quality finance director is also essential for a successful MBO, says Mr Jones and he warns that they are not for the faint-hearted: "If you have any doubts, you should probably listen to them."

The next ingredient of a successful MBO is the vendor, he adds: "It is my consistent experience over 15 years that a willing vendor is almost an essential. As in any commercial bargain, it is extremely difficult, indeed well-nigh impossible, to make the other party contract with you if he does not want to."

Research reveals that some 75 per cent of MBOs are initiated by vendors who have decided to sell. In my experience, the buy-outs that go, in relative terms, the most smoothly, involve not just a willing vendor but what I term a benevolent one, who, subject to realising the right price, wants to see the ownership and future of his business vested in his managers."

The other necessary element for a successful MBO, says Mr Jones, are a real business, a viable price, a financial package, and good advisors.

"My final advice is, one: do not embark on an MBO unless you are 100 per cent certain that you and your management team colleagues all possess the right characteristics to do the deal and live with it. Two: do not attempt an MBO without competent professional advisers, all of whom have unequivocally demonstrated to you that they have done this before with skill and success for their clients."



BRITAIN'S newest cheese, Churton — being bitten into here by TV personality Annela Rice — has come on the market due to the efforts of a management buyout team who have created The Cheese Company after a £96 million acquisition from Grand Metropolitan. David Young writes. The team, led by managing director Roger Davenport, his deputy Bob Trott, and Maria Dooley, group

marketing manager, took over the former Express Foods division from Grand Metropolitan and are now spending £3 million on a marketing campaign for the new cheese. We spend £1.5 billion each year on cheese in Britain and The Cheese Company, backed by many of the big names in the MBO financing sector, is confident that its new product will take a large wedge of the market. The new hard

cheese is already finding favour with the consumer. It contrasts with Lymeswold, the last new cheese launched in Britain, which was developed to lure the affections of soft-cheese lovers away from French products.

The development of Churton illustrates that the MBO financing market is willing to put money into new-product development as well as acquisitions.

Under the Bimbo spell

The rest of Europe follows Britain

Any discussion on management buyouts (MBOs) and the management buyin and buyout (Bimbo) will inevitably come to the point where the role of 3i in developing the concept will arise. Even its competitors acknowledge that the company has been instrumental in organising the survival and subsequent development of dozens of companies in Britain and, increasingly in Europe.

Gordon Bonneyman, the managing director of Charterhouse Development Capital, said: "The influence of 3i cannot be overestimated. At a guess, perhaps half of the venture capitalists in the UK buyout industry are graduates of the 3i academy."

It now appears that what 3i has done for much of British business it is now doing in the rest of Europe, according to a director Patrick Dumme, with buyins (MBIs) and Bimbos sweeping the Continent. He said: "For the roots of today's MBI and Bimbo in Germany you have to look back to 1945. That was when the German economic miracle was shaped. Determined entrepreneurs launched businesses that mushroomed into powerful family companies which helped make Germany the envy of the world."

Now, half a century later, even the dynastically-minded Germans are finding it hard to keep family-owned companies intact. "This provides openings for buyins. If dynamic managers with financial backing come along and offer to acquire the business, it can



Gordon Bonneyman

solve the succession problem. The alternative might be absorption into a foreign-controlled company."

The main factor which appears to spark off the MBI process in Germany is sickness, with more than two-thirds of the MBIs backed by 3i's Frankfurt office arising from a serious illness among the owning family.

Mr Dumme said: "In Germany, MBIs and Bimbos take place predominantly in manufacturing companies. In France the sector range is wider — nearly half are in distribution and the services. But in France, too, the reason for the MBI is usually that the present owner has decided to pass on the baton."

3i has been comparing the characteristics of MBIs and Bimbos in the three countries where they are most developed, the UK, Germany and France. Overall, 3i has backed more than 350 deals, and clear patterns are emerging about the people who become involved. Most of them learned their skills in big companies, but became frustrated with larger corporate cultures.

"On the Continent the amount of capital a manager invests personally in a buyin is higher — an average of £280,000 in France, £250,000 in Germany and £100,000 in the UK," Mr Dumme says. "They appear to have more to invest over there, perhaps because they have fewer of their resources tied up in their homes. It is also more common on the Continent than in the UK for the retiring owner to retain part of the equity after a buyin."

"All this is true of the pattern now emerging in Italy, where we have now backed a handful of MBIs. We think we shall eventually find the same thing in Spain. The greatest thing since sliced bread is called Bimbo."

DAVID YOUNG

How to identify a winning team

A successful management buyout depends to a large extent on teamwork: the cohesion of the managers who want to translate their efforts and ideas into commercial and financial success and on the team they use, David Young writes.

A report by the City law firm Withers and the City University Business School (Cubs) should, therefore, be essential reading for the MBO industry.

The research for the report, *Cultures of Success — The Characteristics of the UK's Leading MBO Teams and Managers*, was undertaken after Withers noticed that investors often had no clear understanding of how managers would perform as teams and individuals once they had acquired the company.

The study, which took place over a three-month period, was carried out by Cub's research fellow Dr Yehuda Baruch and Withers partner David Gebbie. They targeted 104 managers who were involved in MBOs which each received more than £10 million in funding and which subsequently exited via a stock market flotation between 1987 and 1993. They received a response from 54 of the managers.

The study focused on company culture, the buyout management, the team and the team leader: all areas critical to success.

Their main findings include: the typical successful MBO manager is male, 44, grammar-school or privately educated, with a university degree, usually in science or engineering.

Where managers place a high value on a consensus style of management, employee and customer satisfaction increases.

Conversely, where managers are motivated predominantly by income-gain, the buyout has a negative effect on employee and customer satisfaction.

Grammar-school educated managers tend to be more individualistic and less group-

Simple steps to the quality of leadership

orientated than their privately educated, peers.

When attempting a buyout, managers are more motivated by a desire to control their own destiny than a desire to save jobs.

Older managers are more motivated by material gain than their younger peers.

Strength of personality is the most important factor in selecting an MBO team leader, outweighing factors such as the amount personally invested, prior seniority or management skills. Only one woman featured at this level of MBO transaction. The head of

which lays the ground for more formal profiling, shows that the same characteristics surface time and time again in successful management teams. When weighing up the pros and cons of a team the investor should be on the lookout for these characteristics. For instance, in a corporate recovery situation, we now know that the right qualities are likely to be found in a younger buyout team.

The Government's stated willingness to underwrite venture capital will be a further stimulant to a buoyant MBO market.

A successful MBO which did involve a high degree of teamwork and the use of skilled professional advisers, experienced in dealing with the potential pitfalls was the £2.5 million buyin and buyout (Bimbo) of Ablex Audio Video from Rascal Electronics. The deal, which also involves the availability of a further £5 million for future development, has created one of the leading CD-Rom manufacturing facilities in Europe and involved the bringing together of John Metcalf, one of the founders of the CD-Rom industry in the UK, and Stephen McEwen, who had extensive City contacts, and some of the previous Ablex directors. Ablex, founded in Tetford, Shropshire, in 1969 as part of the Decca group, has been a leading replicator of CDs, floppy discs and cassettes, but now that it has moved from under the Rascal wing is set for a major expansion.

Although it was John Metcalf who spotted the potential for the venture it was solicitor Nick Seddon, of Midlands lawyers Dibb Lupton Brownhead who, with a team of colleagues, put the deal together.

He said: "In many ways this was a classic case of bringing together people with a company for the benefit of all concerned and bringing together the financial package which has made the whole deal such a success."



Nick Seddon: "It was a classic case"

the MBO unit at Withers, Tim Stocks, said: "There is no doubt that an MBO's success depends on the makeup of the management team — their skills, personalities and experience."

"Until now no attempt has been made to evaluate this, partly because there are so many variables in examining team cultures and individual attributes. With millions of pounds a year invested in MBOs, we felt strongly that some positive steps had to be taken to incorporate the 'human factor' into investors' decision making.

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مكتبة الأمل

Where is the buyout boom?

Surveys reveal a continuing surge in the number and size of deals, with records being set. But the South East is still lagging behind, David Young reports

Positive trends seen in the management buyout sector in 1994, when several records were broken, are continuing so far this year, according to the Centre for Management Buyout Research at the University of Nottingham's management school.

The findings by the team at Nottingham underline the importance of the sector to the overall level of business in the city, with buyouts and buyins accounting for more than 40 per cent of takeover activity by number, and just under 30 per cent by value.

The centre, which provides authoritative data for the main players in the industry, has found that in the first quarter of this year:

Total buyout and buyin market value has seen a further rise to £10.10 billion, an increase of 7.2 pc on the £942 million in the same quarter last year.

With the continuing increase in importance of buyouts and buyins in the £10 million to £100 million range, there has been a further rise in the average size of deal to £6.8 million.

The availability of debt and equity remains high. Equity institutions are continuing to develop a more proactive strategy in deal origination than was traditional. This is expected to contribute to further growth of completions later in the year.

Exits continue to be affected by the less receptive new issues market. Significantly fewer buyouts will come to the market in the first half of the year, with greater emphasis being given to trade sales as an exit route.

The report's authors, Brian Chiplin, Mike Wright and Ken Robbie, have found that after the sharp fall in activity experienced the previous year, 1994 saw the total volume of buyouts and buyins rise by

more than an eighth to 549 transactions. Market value rose by 28.5 per cent and, at £3.68 billion, was at the highest level since the peak year of 1989. They suggest that this recovery was primarily the result of a 46.5 per cent increase in the buyin segment of the market. With 145 deals being completed in the year, the number of buyins was almost at a record level, being surpassed only by the 148 deals seen in 1989.

In contrast, the number of buyouts rose by only 5 per cent, to 404. The value of buyouts rose by more than half, 53.8 per cent, to £1.08 billion, while buy-out value rose by a fifth, £2.59 billion.

The authors say: "We noted

The biggest increase is in deals for family-owned firms

last year that activity in the £10-25 million price range was particularly healthy. However, it was also notable that the deals in the over £25 million price range also showed marked recovery, increasing from 20 in 1993 to 30 in 1994, worth £1,440 million. Buyins with a transaction value exceeding £25 million increased strongly from three to ten, worth £535 million.

"Buyouts from receivership peaked in 1992 at a little under a fifth of all deals. A modest reduction in the market share of buyouts from this source was seen in 1993, but the fall recorded in 1994 was dramatic. From accounting for a sixth of buyouts in 1993, receivership cases were down to only 3.7 per cent in 1994. The actual

number of deals, 15, was a quarter of the level of the previous year.

"The share of buyouts accounted for by divestments from UK parents recovered a little from the record low of 1993, but was still the second lowest share ever at 42.4 per cent. In the context of the overall increase in buyouts the actual number of deals completed rose from 152 to 171. In contrast, the share of buyouts coming from foreign parents eased a little from the high levels of 1993 to 12.6 per cent."

The biggest increase in buyout deal volume was accounted for by purchases of family-owned businesses, whose market share rose from 27.5 per cent in 1993 to a record 34.0 per cent last year. Actual deal completions rose by a third to 141, also a record. Buyouts involving public sector activities rose to their highest share of the market since 1988, at 5.7 per cent. Transactions rose by ten, to 23, reflecting the continuing sale of bus companies and the privatisation of British Coal.

There were also big changes in the regional distribution of buyouts, with the share of activity in the South East continuing to decline, reaching a record low of only 28.2 per cent of deals during 1994. The number of deals in the West Midlands rose from 81 per cent of the total to 12 per cent in the South West the rise was from 4.2 per cent to 7.7 per cent, in the North from 3.5 per cent to 5 per cent, while in Yorkshire and Humberside the move was slightly downwards to 9.5 per cent, after big rises in 1993.

The share of buyout market value was also a record low in the South East, at 34.7 per cent, while the North West experienced its highest share of value since 1986, at a sixth of the overall total.



Paul Reeves, on a London General bus: "The whole workforce can now enjoy the benefits of share ownership and play a part in our direction"

When success is one short stop away

When in London, you have only to look around you to see the result of a successful management buyout, David Young reports. London's famous, red, double-deck buses are mainly driven by staff who took part in a buyout last November when London General Transport Services bought the business from London Transport.

The management team now runs the largest of the ten privatised bus companies operating in London after their £32.3 million deal. The newly-formed corporate finance division of Lor-

How London's famous red buses took their own route

bard Business Finance provided more than £11.4 million of debt funding, and the transaction was written in conjunction with NatWest Markets Acquisition Finance. NatWest provided senior debt and took over the banking business with Montague Private Equity providing equity finance.

London General operates a fleet of 630 buses, with a staff of 1,800 and with a turnover of more than £50 million. It is now gearing up for growth, with more than

110 million passengers being carried each year. It has already beaten off competition to win two large contracts for the Red Arrow network and key routes on southwest London which will involve an investment of £1.1 million in new buses. The company's finance director, Paul Reeves, said: "The money raised enabled management and employees to buy the business from London Transport. The whole workforce can now enjoy the benefits of share

ownership and each employee can now play a part in the company's direction."

"We dealt with Lombard as they stood out from the crowd. They had an in-depth knowledge of our business as well as an understanding of our commercial approach."

The corporate division of Lombard Business Finance has recently expanded to focus the company's skill on the needs of the growing, but demanding, management buyout sector. Other recent successes include the £192

million buyout of the car hire specialists Eurodollar.

Paul Gee, director of marketing and planning, said: "The fixed assets of a business provide a natural opportunity to raise funding for an acquisition or a buyout. Lombard Business Finance has developed a high level of expertise in this area and offer a different perspective."

Another major player in the Eurodollar deal was Charterhouse Development Capital, which became involved after being approached by the leading investor Prudential Venture Managers.

Saying goodbye can be the toughest business decision

It was three against one when the four founders of Druid Systems sat down to map out their future.

The computer consultancy and software company had been set up in 1987. By 1993 it was time to decide the best way to develop what had already proved to be a fast growing outfit. Each of the founders held a 25 per cent stake.

David Thompson was the odd one out. Yet by the end of the year he was the one watching the other three say goodbye. Mr Thompson says: "There was a divergence in attitudes towards how the business should be run. There was also a division on the ownership of shares in the company."

When the company was established it offered two services. Mr Thompson was on the consultancy side. The other partners were specialist in developing computer software.

Mr Thompson says: "It was the consulting side that was making the money and the software side that was absorbing it so I was in a strong position to dictate the future of the company. We were making money but it was clear that the consulting side could do better on its own."

Mr Thompson organised a management buyout and in December 1993 the other three

founders left. Druid was to concentrate on the consultancy work. The buyout provided the opportunity for a reorganisation at the top. Mr Thompson became managing director. David Tebbis, a previous chairman and chief executive officer at BIS Banking Systems, came in as chairman, bringing with him extensive

knowledge of the IT consultancy field. Simon Leefe was appointed non-executive director to represent Candover and Phoenix, the venture capital companies that took equity in the buyout. A finance director was appointed and key staff were promoted.

Druid is one of the country's top 20 information technology

consultancies, operating across Europe. It specialises in advising on integrated business systems for medium to large multinationals and is particularly strong in logistics and finance. It employs more than 80 staff — nearly double the number of employees at the time of the buyout — and had a turnover of £4 million

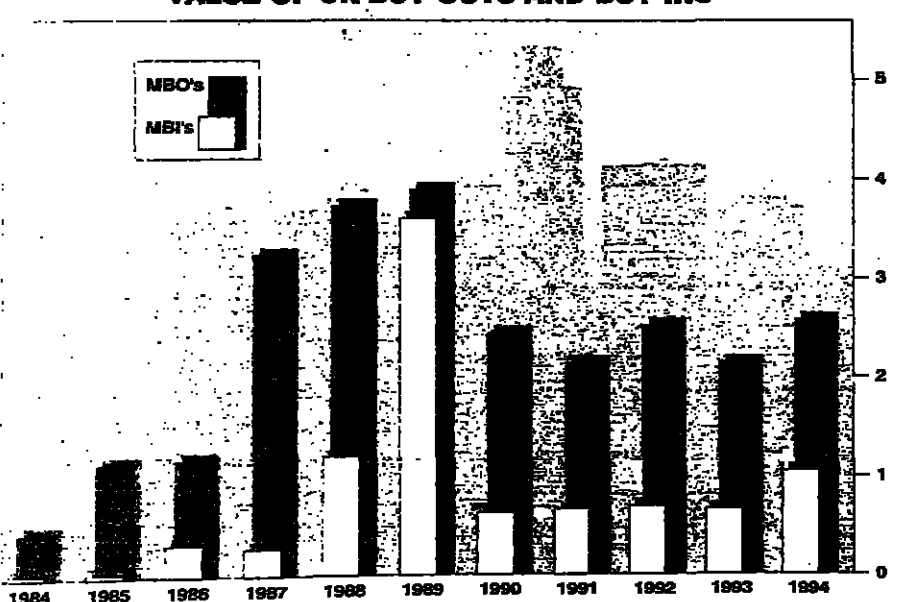
last year. Clients include Polaroid, General Electric, Unilever and Courage. Druid has linked up with SAP, a German company that is one of the fastest growing software companies in the world.

Mr Thompson cut his 25 per cent holding to just 10 per cent in the buyout to allow employees to take a stake.

This, he felt, would allow the company to focus its efforts on expanding its team of consultants to take advantage of the rapidly growing European market.

RODNEY HOBSON

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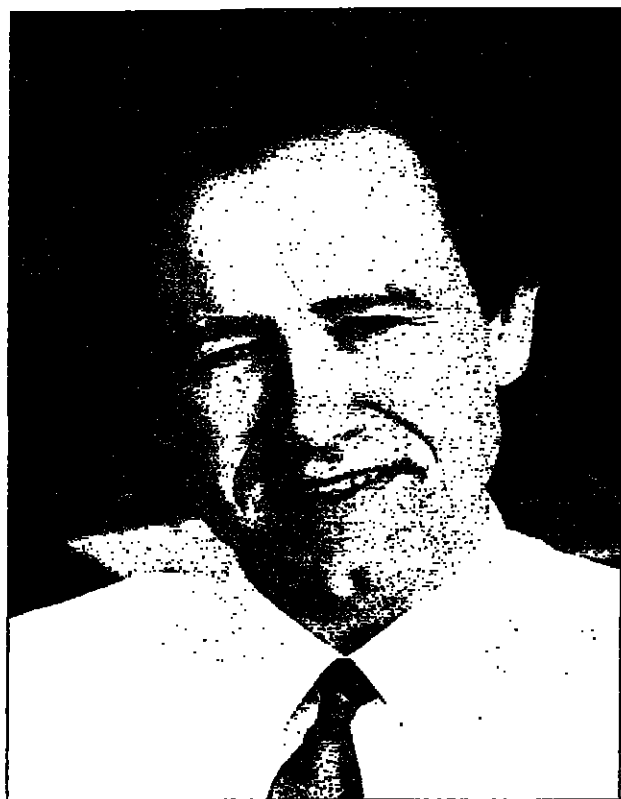
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ACCOUNTANCY

Giving — and taking away

David Haigh believes the IASC has created rules which discriminate unfairly against intangible assets



David Haigh says ED 50 is overprudent and unworkable

"goodwill". High residual values, annual impairment reviews as an alternative to amortisation and rolling 20-year depreciation periods will all be frowned upon.

If UK companies with powerful historic brands end up

confronted with the treatment of unidentifiable

earnings will be hit, even though the asset in question could be increasing in value.

Where tangible assets are concerned, the IASC's standard, IAS 16, sensibly allows the inclusion of revalued amounts for assets previously stated at cost, subject to regu-

lar and systematic review by professionally qualified valuers. Such valuations can be based on market values, replacement costs or appraised valuations, which are often based on discounted cashflow analysis. By contrast, ED 50 permits revaluation only where the assets are identical (or can be divided into units that are identical) and are traded on an active secondary market with publicly available prices. This is clearly impossible in the case of most intangibles, particularly brands.

Since the late Eighties, thousands of brands worth billions of pounds have been valued to the satisfaction of financial directors, auditors, tax authorities, banks and courts. Why is this approach so unacceptable to the setters of accounting standards? If economic value valuations are reliable enough for these professional interest groups, why are they unacceptable for financial statements?

Surely if such revaluations were accompanied by informative notes on historical costs, cashflows used and the basis of valuation, financial statements would be more likely to honour the spirit of the IASC framework and to repeat the good sense of IAS 16. All those who inhabit the real world should let the IASC know that ED 50 is over-prudent, unworkable and contradictory.

The author is a director of Interbrand

Bigger slice of the tasty taxation cake

WHEN the main accountancy firms release their annual figures next Monday, there will be one trend which will stand out. Their tax departments will have done extremely well. This leads to two consequences. First, bright partners in tax will secure even more power within their firms. Remember that the managing partner at Arthur Andersen is a tax practitioner, born and bred. And another tax man, Andrew Jones, steps up to become Ernst & Young's UK managing partner at the end of this month. Just as there was a surge of management consultants coming through into senior management positions during the 1980s, this decade looks like being the decade of the tax guru.

The second consequence is a quickening in the old battle over how far lawyers can take away some of the tax market from accountants. In the past, this has always been defused by pointing to the numbers of tax staff employed. The argument has always been that while the most senior of legal firms have taken the most senior of international tax assignments, they never had the staff numbers or the international networks to make much of an effort at the wider tax market. For some people in the tax world, that is still the perceived situation. Peter Wyman, head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand and the outgoing chairman of the English ICA's tax faculty, still believes that the tax market the lawyers are competing for is small scale and focused on niches. For him, the greater competition is simply a function of how badly the recession has hurt legal firms. "In the recession, lawyers have heightened their interest in tax to cover the holes in their merger and acquisition work" was his comment this week. And he thought that "the pendulum has swung about as far as it can go".

However, his views are far from shared. The senior partner of one of the very largest accounting firms last week posed the question: "Why do Clifford Chance have 100 people in their tax practice if they are only doing individual international assignments?" His conclusion was that at least some of them must be working on the more mundane field of tax compliance, which the accountants have largely had to themselves for a generation. Accountants have got away with being rude about lawyers' abilities for a long time. And by and large, the lawyers

have let them. But there are signs that they are starting to bite back. The legal firms have always been at a cultural disadvantage. Accountants are trained to be business advisers. Lawyers are trained to go and sort out a single transaction. Continuing work flows from the former much more easily than the latter.

Also lawyers have not been anything like as fast off the mark at simply being commercial. But that too is changing. As one partner in a large law firm put it to me recently: "We used to have an inability as a profession to understand the market forces facing the professions. These days that Achilles' heel is less exposed."

Lawyers, as well as accountants, now talk of such things as depth of resource, branding, national presence, investment, changing cultures, and using leverage to expand the range of services provided to a client. "It may be very late in the day," said Peter Cole, of the national law firm of Eversheds, "but the legal profession is responding." And, of course, so is the accounting profession. Arthur Andersen delighted in keeping people guessing, but their creation, in Garrett & Co, of a separate legal practice is mostly assumed to be a Trojan horse. Andersen deny this. They argue that it is simply an independent law firm. But as it steadily opens offices around the UK, the suspicious increase. In Australia, for example, legal firms are very aware of how the accountancy profession is making inroads.

There will always be a reticence on the part of many large companies to take all their professional services from one organisation. But, it does make sense for everything from audit to tax to legal services to come from under the same roof.

The only part of the world where lawyers have it all their own way is in the US, where all the high value-added work is done by the law firms, and accountants make do with the compliance work. It would be interesting to see what would happen if the US law firms decided to clean up the City of London in much the same way as US investment banks have.

Then the accountants would really be worried. But for them, there is some consolation. There is always the bedrock of audit. No one, not even lawyers, would ever want to do audits.



ROBERT BRUCE

Beating drums for the Beatles

CHILDHOOD events, so novelists tell us, reverberate through the rest of our lives. They certainly do for David McDonnell, national managing partner at Grant Thornton. In his early teens, he played the drums in a group at his school in Liverpool and regularly got duffed up by the lead guitarist, one John Lennon. Now McDonnell, as one of the great and the good of Liverpool, has his revenge. He has been appointed chair-

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

man of the trustees of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. And under his aegis comes the Liverpool Life Museum, which boasts a large collection of Beattie memorabilia.

Village life

YOU can always tell when image-makers have a duff concept on their hands. They try to make it sound rustic and bucolic. Coopers & Lybrand

has a problem. Staff are housed in all manner of addresses in the area around their Plumtree Court offices in the City, where they used to be headquartered. To soften this nomadic life, the maps that staff are being given to locate all the offices refer to the area as Plumtree Village.

Son of Cadbury

LAST week's unveiling of the survey that showed that most

companies were complying with the Cadbury code on corporate governance was somewhat overshadowed by the fact that no successor chairman to Sir Adrian Cadbury has been appointed, even though there is but one month to go before the successor committee has to start work. Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, is still ponderously working through his list of respected captains of industry.

But sadly they are all still saying no.

Dawn call

IF YOU slept well last night, spare a thought for the outgoing president of the English ICA, Roger Lawson. He was up at some ungodly hour this morning to review today's newspapers for *Business Breakfast* on television. Still, as he probably thought as he raced through the dawn in a BBC car, he has only six days of his presidency to go.

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Maximum sentence cannot be exceeded

Regina v Foran
Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Mantell and Mr Justice Hooper

[Judgment May 25]

Where a young offender released on licence was ordered to serve part of a sentence already imposed, section 40(4)(c) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which provided that that period was to be disregarded in determining the appropriate length of a new sentence, and which applied to offenders of all ages, was not sufficiently specific to create an exception to section 18(4) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, as amended, which required the court to pass a sentence of imprisonment for an offender aged 15, 16 or 17 a total sentence of detention in a young offender institution which exceeded 12 months.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Jamie Victor Foran against a sentence imposed in September 1994 at Newport Crown Court, Gwent (Judge Burr and Justices) of 11 months detention in a young offender institution for an offence of burglary committed 10 days after his release on licence having served four and a half months of a nine-month sentence.

Pursuant to sections 40 and 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the crown court had ordered that his licence be revoked and the remainder of the sentence of four and a half months less 16 days be served

consecutively to the sentence of 11 months, making a total of fifteen and a half months, less 16 days.

Section 1A of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as inserted by section 123(1)(4) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and amended by section 63 of and Schedule 11 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991, provides:

"(2) Subject to section 18(2) below, the maximum term of detention in a young offender institution that a court may impose for an offence is the same as the maximum term of imprisonment that it may impose for that offence."

"(3) Subject to section 18(4) below, where — (a) an offender is convicted of more than one offence for which he is liable to a sentence of detention in a young offender institution; or (b) an offender who is already serving a sentence of detention in a young offender institution is convicted of one or more further offences for which he is liable to a sentence of detention in a young offender institution; the court shall have the same power to pass consecutive sentences of detention in a young offender institution as if they were sentences of imprisonment."

Section 1B of the 1982 Act, as inserted by section 123 of the 1991 Act, and amended by section 63 of and Schedule 13 to the 1991 Act, provides:

"(2) In the case of an offender aged 15, 16, or 17 the maximum term of detention in a young offender institution that a court may impose for an offence is the same as the maximum term of imprisonment that it may impose for that offence."

may impose whichever is the lesser of — (a) the maximum term of imprisonment the court may impose for the offence and (b) 12 months.

"(4) A court shall not pass on an offender aged 15, 16 or 17 a sentence of detention in a young offender institution whose effect would be that the offender would be sentenced to a total term which exceeds 12 months."

"(5) Where the total term of detention in a young offender institution to which an offender aged 15, 16 or 17 is sentenced exceeds 12 months shall be treated as remitted."

"(6) In this section 'total term' means — (a) in the case of an offender sentenced (whether or not on the same occasion) to two or more terms of detention in a young offender institution; or (b) an offender who is already serving a sentence of detention in a young offender institution; the aggregate of those terms."

Section 40 of the 1991 Act, read in conjunction with section 43 which provides that section 40 applies to a person serving a sentence of detention in a young offender institution who is released under Part II, provides:

"(1) ... (a) before the date on which he would (but for his release) have served his sentence in full, he commits an offence punishable with imprisonment; and (b) whether before or after that date he is convicted of that offence (the new offence)."

"(2) ... the court by or before which a person to whom this section applies is convicted of the new offence may ... order him to be returned to prison for the whole or any part of the period which (a) begins with the date of the offence and (b) is equal in length to the period between the date of which the new offence was committed and the date mentioned in subsection (1) above."

"(3) The period for which a person to whom this section applies is ordered under subsection 2 above to be returned to [a young offender institution] — (a) shall be taken to be a sentence of imprisonment for the purposes of this Part."

Mr Harry Baker, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Warwick McKinnon for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was submitted on behalf of the appellant that the sentence of 11 months combined with the order that the appellant serve the period of four and a half months, constituted an unlawful sentence by virtue of the provisions of section 1B of the 1982 Act, as amended.

Section 17 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 amended those subsections to replace the period of 12 months with a period of 24 months but that amendment had no application in this case.

A number of questions arose from the definition in section 18(6) of "total term".

First, when being sentenced on September 30, 1994 was the appellant then being sentenced "on the same occasion" to two or more terms of detention. If he was, then the aggregate of those terms would exceed 12 months.

To answer that question it was necessary to decide whether or not the appellant was being "sentenced" to the four and a half months within the meaning of subsection (6)(a). That matter was resolved by turning to section 40 of the 1991 Act.

The effect of section 40, combined with section 43, was that a court might, in the circumstances set out in the section, order that a person who had been released from a period of detention in a young offender institution be returned to a young offender institution in order to complete that sentence.

In their Lordships' judgment, if an order was made that a person be returned to a young offender institution, he was not being sentenced to a term of detention in a young offender institution. If he were being sentenced to a term of detention, section 40(4)(a) would be redundant.

But he was being ordered to serve part of a sentence already imposed and he thus once again became a detainee serving a sentence. It followed that on September 30, 1994 the appellant was not sentenced on the same occasion to two or more terms of detention in a young offender institution.

The second question which then arose from a consideration of section 18(6), was concerned with the effect of the order made pursuant to section 40(2) and the 11-month sentence imposed on that day.

The first thing to be noted was that the order under section 40(2) had to take precedence because the words of that subsection made it clear that the court could only order the appellant to be returned to prison for a period which began "with the date of the order": see section 40(2)(a).

Also section 40(4)(b) empowered the court to direct that the period to be served from the original sentence "be served before and followed by or be served concurrently with the sentence imposed for the new offence".

There was no power to order it to be served consecutively to the sentence imposed for the new offence.

The 11-month sentence therefore had to be regarded as being ordered to be served consecutively to the four and a half months, and, in their Lordships' judgment, by passing that 11-month sentence the court contravened section 18(4) of the 1982 Act because the effect was that the appellant was sentenced to a total term exceeding 12 months, because of the definition of "total term" in section 18(6).

Albeit he was not sentenced on the same occasion, the appellant was an offender sentenced to two terms of detention which were consecutive and the aggregate of those terms exceeded 12 months.

In arriving at their conclusion their Lordships recognised that section 40(4)(c) provided that the four and a half month period "shall be disregarded in determining the appropriate length of the sentence for the new offence", but that subsection, which applied to offenders of all ages, did not appear to be sufficiently specific to create an exception to section 18(4) of the 1982 Act.

Even if it were to do so it would not appear to affect section 18(6) which provided for the remission of so much of the total term as exceeded 12 months.

There remained the question of what, for the purposes of section 18(6)(a) of the 1982 Act were the two terms of detention to which by the end of the proceedings on September 30 the appellant had been sentenced, albeit on different occasions.

In their Lordships' judgment the answer to that question was nine months and 11 months, and the aggregate was therefore 20 months.

The four and a half months less 16 days was only a part of the nine months and had to be regarded as a separate sentence only for the purposes of Part II of the 1991 Act: see section 40(4)(a).

Accordingly the sentence of 11 months was to be regarded as a sentence of three months would be substituted.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Court of Appeal

When father does not take part in adoption

In re C (Minor) (Adoption: Parties)

Before Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Thorpe
[Judgment May 16]

An unmarried father without parental responsibility did not have to be joined as a respondent to proceedings for his child's adoption.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by prospective adopters against the dismissal by Judge Barham at Lowestoft County Court on December 12, 1994 of their application for the removal of the child's natural father as a party to the adoption proceedings. The matter was remitted to the county court for further consideration.

Rule 15 of the Adoption Rules (SI 1984 No 265) provides: "(2) The applicant [for an adoption order] shall be the proposed adopter and the respondents shall be — (a) each parent or guardian (not being an applicant of the child) ..."

Rule 2, as amended by the Adoption (Amendment) Rules (SI 1991 No 1880) provides: "(2) Except where a contrary intention appears, a word or phrase used in these rules shall have the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 or, where the word or phrase does not appear in that Act, as in the Adoption Act."

Mr Allan Levy, QC and Ms Jane Gill for the prospective adopters; Mr Anthony Kirk for the father; Mr Peter Wain for the guardian ad litem.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the issue was whether on an application for adoption it was a mandatory requirement of law that an unmarried natural father, who did not have parental responsibility for the child, ought to be joined as a respondent to the proceedings.

As appeared from *In re C (Minor) (Adoption: Residence Order)* [1994] Fam 1 the word "parent" meant different things in different provisions of the Children Act 1989 and included natural fathers in some circumstances but not in others.

In his Lordship's judgment, for present purposes the meaning of the word "parent" was that used in Schedule 10 to the Children Act 1989. Paragraph 30(7) provided, by amendment of the Adoption Act 1976 to which the Adoption Rules 1984 were subordinate, the def-

inition of parent that the 1976 Act had hitherto lacked: section 72(1) now provided that "parent" meant "any parent who has parental responsibility for the child under the Children Act 1989".

Section 11 of the Interpretation Act 1978 provided that where an Act conferred power to make subordinate legislation, expressions used in that legislation had, unless the contrary intention appeared, the meaning which they bore in the Act.

It was also to be noted that the same result could be reached for the purposes of the Magistrates' Rules (Adoption) Rules (SI 1984 No 611) by a more direct route.

Rule 2(2), as amended by the Adoption (Amendment) Rules 1991, provided that expressions in the Rules which were used in the 1976 Act and the 1989 Act had the same meaning as in those Acts. Consequently, without proceeding via the 1989 Act, the definition now in the 1976 Act could be applied directly to that subordinate legislation.

Mr Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Nicholson, Lowndes, Lloyd & Co, Theodora Lucas & Wyllys, Lowestoft.

Death row sentence commuted

Bradshaw v Attorney-General of Barbados and Others
Roberts v Same

There was no reason to vary the period of five years laid down in *Pratt v Attorney-General for Jamaica* [1993] 2 AC 1 following which there would be strong grounds for believing that the delay in carrying out a sentence of death was such as to constitute inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lane, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn and Sir Ralph Gibson) so stated on May 24 in allowing appeals by the appellants, Peter Bradshaw and Denzil Orlando Roberts, from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of Barbados of their appeals from the judgment of Mr Justice Waterman in the High Court dismissing their applications in proceedings against the respondents, the Attorney-General of Barbados, the Superintendent of Glendary Prison and the Chief Marshal, for redress for alleged infringements of their constitutional rights.

LORD SLYNN said that a meticulous effort had been made to deduce periods when it could be said that the appellants were not getting on with proceedings or complying with rules and to show that enough months could be deducted to reduce the relevant delay to below five years.

Their Lordships wished to discourage the minute examination of

weeks and even months when such delay could be said to have occurred and to be the responsibility of one or other party so that it had to be apportioned.

The right approach was to take the total period of time which had elapsed and then to ask, as indicated in *Pratt* (at pp29-30) whether the "delay is due entirely to the fault of the accused such as an escape from custody or friv-

olous and time wasting resort to legal procedures which amount to an abuse of process". If they did the defendant could not take advantage of the delay. In the present case no period fell to be deducted from the total period of over five years which had elapsed since the appellants had been sentenced to death, and a sentence of life imprisonment should be substituted.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

VAT assessment has to be made in correct time period

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Croydon Hotel and Leisure Company Ltd
Before Mr Justice Popplewell

[Judgment May 17]

For the purpose of making an assessment under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 7 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983 the Commissioners of Customs and Excise could only assess for the period in which an entitlement to input arose and not for the period in which the deduction to input tax was claimed.

Mr Justice Popplewell so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an appeal by the commissioners against a decision of the commissioners, given at a decision of the VAT Tribunal dated March 16, 1994 which found that an assessment made in June 1993 of input tax due from the Croydon Hotel and Leisure Company Ltd was out of time as the two-year time limit in paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 7 related to the time input tax arose during the company's accounting period ending March 31, 1991.

In February 1991 Croydon had paid £2 million as compensation for termination of a hotel management agreement. Their VAT accounting period

ended on March 31, 1991. A claim for input tax was paid in the VAT accounting period ending September 30, 1991.

The commissioners on September 4 allowed a deduction of input tax of £260,869 on condition that it would be repaid if it was later determined that the £2 million was not consideration for a taxable supply.

A determination in those terms was made. In June 1993 the commissioners assessed the amount of £260,869 as tax due from Croydon.

Croydon appealed. The VAT Tribunal did not hear the substantive hearing because the 1993 assessment was deemed out of time.

Mrs Melanie Hall for the commissioners; Mr Roderick Cordara, QC and Miss Perdita Cargill-Thompson for Croydon.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the tribunal was correct in its finding.

He adopted the chairman's reasoning that it was essential for the purposes of applying the two-year time limit in paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 7 to the 1983 Act, to decide which was "the prescribed accounting period", the accounting

period to March 31, 1991 when the entitlement to credit arose, or the accounting period to June 30, 1991 when the input tax was claimed.

The prescribed accounting period in paragraph 4(5) was presumably referred to in paragraph 4(2) which began: "In any case where, for any prescribed accounting period, there had been paid or credited to any person ... The key word was "for".

Paragraph 4 had to be read together with sections 14 and 15 of the 1983 Act which provided for the allowance of input tax. Section 15(1) gave a definition of "for" when it said: "... so much of the input tax for the period that is input tax on supplies acquisitions and importations in the period ...".

The chairman had seen no reason why "for" should not be similarly construed in paragraph 4(2). The input tax was "for" the accounting period ended March 31, 1991, no matter when it became claimable or when it was in fact claimed and allowed. An assessment in June 1993 was therefore out of date.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Evans Dodd.

Keep off junk, I

Keep off junk, I

Keep off junk, I

Keep off junk, I

Keep off junk, I



■ FILM 1

Elizabeth Hurley adorns the screen in *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, an otherwise bad British movie



■ FILM 2

Puerto Rican spitfire Rosie Perez rules the roost in East Los Angeles in the uneven feature, *Somebody to Love*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Limping along: Brian Cox's flawed production of *Richard III* launches an open air summer season



■ THEATRE 2

The Redgraves resurrect *The Fire Raisers*, a worthy addition to their anti-fascist season in London

Keep off the junk, Liz

CINEMA: Geoff Brown is less than impressed by Elizabeth Hurley as a poor-little-rich-girl addict

Last Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival, Elizabeth Hurley was smiling madly, bursting out of an unwise lime-green dress as she ascended the stairs with Hugh Grant at her side, cameras clicking all around. She does this kind of thing so often that you tend to forgive her also acts. Not that you could confuse her with Sarah Bernhardt, exactly; least of all in *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, a bad British film in which nobody radiates with talent, even if they usually have a plentiful supply.

Her character, Antonia, is a heroin user, born to money but not to love: her mother has committed suicide and her father is a remote stuffed-shirt pillar of his club and City boardrooms. Home is either the country estate or a fancy nook in SW3. Sometimes she ventures to the pleasure dome of a lordly drug dealer, where glazed young faces loom through the fog and candlelight. Mostly she curls up in chairs, beds and sofas, white powder at hand.

Henry Cole, a director of commercials and documentaries, comes to his first feature with good credentials: he was a heroin addict himself, he admits, from a comfortable background, and he wanted to make a film with a warning. But while the settings and upper-class vowels may be authentic, both he and his screenwriter, Tim Sewell, seem ignorant of the structure, suspense and psychology of a convincing thriller needs. True words about loveless childhoods are not enough; nor are characters such as Joss Ackland's corrupt drugs

Mad Dogs and Englishmen
Plaza, 18, 97 mins
Inadequate portrait of well-heeled degenerates

Somebody to Love
Curzon West End, 18, 103 mins
Meet Rosie Perez, taxi dancer

Don't Get Me Started
National Film Theatre, 76 mins
Notorious fiasco from the BFI

Tales from the Crypt: Demon Knight
Plaza, 18, 93 mins
Horror comic spin-off with gore galore

squad inspector, unhinged by too much devotion to his own loose-living daughter. Ackland gives us the full, stale slice of ham: mad staring eyes, menacing grins. Jeremy Brett, nostrils flaring nicely, is more entertaining as Tony Vernon-Smith, acme of decadent aristocracy. But most of the rest cannot summon the gusto to offset the banalities that pour from their lips. And Hurley? She looks attractive and adorns furniture well, but

with material like this, ascending the red steps at Cannes does seem the better option.

Another, far different lady rules the roost in *Somebody to Love*, the Puerto Rican spitfire Rosie Perez. At one point in Alexandre Rockwell's hymn to losers and hoppers in the East Los Angeles barrio, Perez follows a voice improvement tape, enunciating phrases such as "55 fish were fishing" and "Kate kicked the kitty cat". But the Perez squawk remains; and her abrasive personality, firmly in the spotlight, is one of the reasons why the film sits uneasily on the screen.

This is the sixth feature for Rockwell, who emerged three years ago with *In the Soup*, a loopy comedy about a struggling film-maker. Fame has brought a lurch toward the mainstream: though any film featuring Steve Buscemi in drag and Harvey Keitel reciting Shakespeare in leopard-skin underpants is clearly no factory product.

For admirers of *In the Soup*, the biggest loss will be Rockwell's zany humour, which disappears after early scenes establishing Perez as an aspiring actress by day and dancer for hire at Keitel's tacky club by night. In its place comes a hesitant romance with a young, lovesick Mexican, who complicates his own life by running errands for Anthony Quinn's racketeer.

Rockwell, a New Yorker, wrote the script with Sergei Bodrov, the Russian director of *Freedom Is Paradise*, now living in California; and the film, packed with noise, colour and bustle, is suffused with an attractive sympathy for life's



Heroine on heroin: Paula Hamilton (left) and Elizabeth Hurley in Henry Cole's unconvincing first feature film, *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*

underdogs, of whatever culture. But the relationship between Perez and her doting beau (Michael DeLorenzo) never achieves the weight necessary to sustain the plot.

And Perez herself is too prickly a personality to make her character shine like Giulietta Masina's starry-eyed hooker in *Nights of Cabiria*, the Fellini film that served as Rockwell's inspiration.

British cinema puts another wrong foot forward with *Don't Get Me Started*, a skeleton in the British Film Institute's closet, now let out for seven performances at the National Film Theatre. Shot under the title *Psychotherapy*, this thriller of sorts by Arthur Ellis, director of spoof shorts and rock videos, first emerged

at the 1993 Cannes market to be hit by a car. Ellis performs some tottering himself, veering between comedy and the drama of paranoia.

Trevor Eve gives an acceptable performance as the troubled hero, a secret assassin who attempts to blend into bland suburbia and struggles to maintain abstinence from tobacco while all around smoke like chimneys. But the wavering tone, dead atmosphere, and overstretched story make the film singularly unconvincing, and one with almost no audience appeal.

Championing new directors always involves risks: if the Production Board had played safe in the past, they would not have supported Peter Greenaway, Terence Davies or Derek Jarman. But in this hard age,

even the most beautifully artistic of ventures needs to find paying customers. One of the BFI's new £450,000 films, *3 Steps to Heaven*, may have found a prosperous sale in America, but I fear for Madagascars Skin, also selected for screening at Cannes.

This has a gifted visual stylist as director, Chris Newby, responsible for *Anchors*. Unfortunately, his second feature is the cinematic equivalent of twiddling your thumbs for 90 minutes. Wandering on the seashore, an alienated homosexual with a facial birthmark shaped like Madagascars (John Hannah) finds a tattooed scold (Bernard Hill) buried in the sand. As they share their days in an abandoned cottage,

whimsy runs riot, the odd memorable image comes and goes, but drama never makes an appearance. It is the kind of limp, elitist film doomed to play one week at the ICA.

American commercial cinema, for all its faults, never loses sight of its audience. *Tales from the Crypt: Demon Knight* came into being through the success of the cable television series, itself inspired by the famous horror comics of the 1950s. *Lovers of Gore*, glop and juvenile humour should find much of interest in the battle to save the forsaken residents of a Texas motel from the clutches of demonic Billy Zane. It is not exactly *Citizen Kane*, but at least the film-makers deliver the goods they want to sell.

THEATRE: A ragged portrait of King Richard; Max Frisch's topical classic

Drama all in the costume

Richard III
Regent's Park

both the deformity that drives the man and his ultimate vulnerability. Stripping him again at his death may bring him full circle, but this undressing is a laborious business, requiring a scrum of spare actors.

On a par with the production, Britton himself is acceptable but forgettable. His Richard, bearded and with

greased-down curls, has flashes of grotesque menace and funniness. He is also strong on vitriol, but his wicked comic timing flags and his seduction of Lady Anne (Natascha McElhone) needs more sexual chemistry.

There is some good verse-speaking. *Relaxed*, a little wry but still too decently unsuspecting for this world, Brian Protheroe is perfectly at home in the part of Hastings. Simon Clark pops in as a stroll, phlegmy frothy Archbishop of Canterbury. As Lord Rivers,

Peter de Jersey is a fine conquering hero. But several of the cast tend towards rushing and roaring their griefs, not investing all their soul in their lines. Tanya McCallin's ladders are technically tricky and her scaffolding set looks drab in the daylight, although it improves with flambeaux.

Nevertheless, the production's problem of coherence remains. Every now and then a clutch of court extras arrive in grey masks. Though their leader is, of course, the king of dissembling, the masks themselves remain stuck in the margins.

At least the beat of African drums carries some weight, backing the bitter wars and ritualistic maledictions with a potent, uncourtly pulse.

KATE BASSETT

Caution — flammable material

DO the Redgraves know that Max Frisch first intended *Biederman*, as *The Fire Raisers* is called in his native Switzerland, to be a wry comment on the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia? Maybe, maybe not. All the same, the play more than merits its slot in Memory, the anti-fascist season their Moving Theatre is

The Fire Raisers
Riverside

presenting in W6. Whatever else it may bring to mind today, the hijacking of Germany by the Nazis is not the least of its satiric concerns. Biederman himself is a hair-

oil tycoon and, as Malcolm Tierney plays him, a pretty suave fellow. Frances de la Tour, his wife, cuts an equally slick, assured figure in her trouser suit. They seem, and are surely meant to seem, more like upper-crust English people of 1955 than members of the mid-European, mid-century bourgeoisie. But both performers are soon signalling the inner weakness and unease that Frisch's parable demands. When a vagrant called Schmitz (chunky, cheerfully yobbish Cliff Parisi) wanders into their living room, do they summon the police? No, the tough-talking, hard-dealing Biederman is bamboozled and intimidated into letting the man doss down in the attic, telling himself the first of many saving lies, which is that he is a very charitable person.

Soon Schmitz is joined by Eisenring (urbane sinister Jonathan Barlow), who has just served a prison sentence for arson. This is worrying in itself, for fires have been breaking out all over the city. It becomes more troubling still when the two house-guests move in vats of petrol, plus fuses. Yet the Biedermans refuse to believe the evidence that is not merely under their noses but being shoved up them by fire-raisers who are, as it turns out, absolutely candid about their intentions. After all, how many Codd-fearing Germans thought Hil-

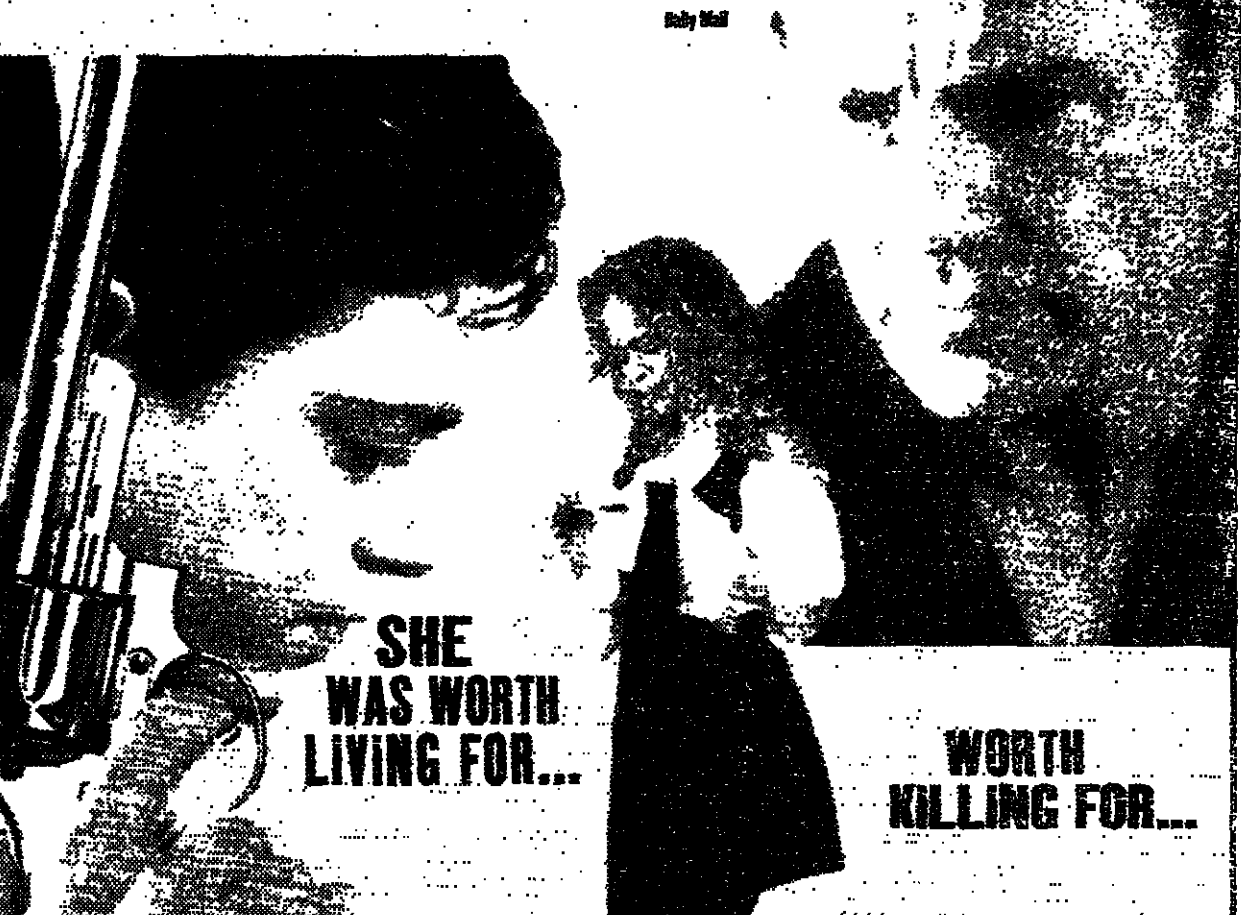
ler really meant that destructive nonsense, *Mein Kampf*?

With the help of a spoof Sophoclean chorus of ululating firemen, Frisch is attacking the self-deception, complacency, cowardice and greed which have let political evil flourish and may do so again. That *The Fire Raisers* does not only concern the past is emphasised partly by the slightly updated clothes, partly by the coda the dramatist himself wrote for the play's German premiere. The city has been reduced to ashes and the Biedermans dispatched to hell. But the Devil is dissatisfied with such small fry. The big villains are being pardoned and their city is richer than ever. So back he goes to planet Earth to stoke up new, more hideous conflagrations.

Lindsay Anderson's production in 1962 ended with exploding H-bombs. That, he implied, was where the Biedermans' wilful stupidity and our failure to punish evil was leading us. Lenka Udovicki's revival is quieter, less sensational, at times lacking in tension, but still leaves you with the feeling that this play is a modern classic: witty, stylistically imaginative, and as pointed as ever. Look at the Balkans now. Schmitz is with us still and, no doubt, Biederman too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

"A DEEPLY FELT AND TOUCHING STORY...PRICELESS MOMENTS..."
Daily Mail



ROSIE PEREZ HARVEY KEITEL
ANTHONY QUINN MICHAEL DELORENZO
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PULP FICTION

STILL ON THE BIG SCREEN

See local press for details

TONIGHT

Fine performances as Steven Pimlott's superb production of Measure for Measure transfers to the Barbican

TONIGHT

A long weekend of Mozart and Salieri closes *Spitalfields Starters*, in the new Chamber Opera House for London

THE TIMES ARTS

DESIGN

A new colossus for the heart of Cambridge: John Outram's exciting transformation of an old hospital

DANCE

New moves for men and women: Netherlands Theatre strike on their own at Sadler's Wells

Marcus Binney admires the confident style of Cambridge's striking new business school

The heart of Cambridge has a new colossus — brightly coloured, boldly detailed and provocatively soaring above every rooftop save the chapel at King's. The transformation of the old Addenbrookes Hospital, opposite the Fitzwilliam Museum, into the new Judge Institute of Management Studies is almost complete.

From modest beginnings in the Engineering School, the Judge Institute is now intended to rival the business schools at Harvard and Fontainebleau. In addition to the £6 million given by Paul and Anne Judge, a matching sum came from the Sainsbury family's Monument Trust, with an insistence on high-quality architecture.

John Outram, the architect who won the institute's invited competition, had an agenda of his own well beyond the simple provision of pleasant working space. Outram's aim is nothing less than to "banish the fear of beauty forever". "Cambridge dons think that beauty is something added to function, a luxury, and if there is one thing intellectuals fear, it is to be accused of being a luxury," Outram says. "Yet they also know that the beauty of Cambridge helps to attract the best minds."

The best approach to his new institute is from across the quadrangle of Downing College. Here you see a modern-day Egyptian temple with massive 80ft columns soaring above the low Regency roofs of Downing. "Downing was started in 1807 when Greek Revival represented the new

thinking of liberty," Outram says. "But this neo-classicism is too modern for me. I prefer to study the real Greek architecture, which was painted from head to foot."

Walk through Downing into Tennis Court Lane and the institute is ablaze with colour. On the left is the lecture theatre built in golden brick with blue trim. Set back on the right is the Ark — so called because it is where the professors work two-by-two.

The Ark has the kind of polychrome brickwork rarely seen since Art Deco — ten shades of yellow, red, blue and white bricks, both matt and glazed, set in stepped pyramid patterns. "All the original architectures — Chinese, Hindu, Pre-Columbian — were coloured. Indeed the first cladding

for nomadic huts was coloured cloth," Outram says. Inside is a huge soaring hall, Outram calls it a gallery, crisscrossed by flying staircases and bridges. The dons told him they did not want corridors. "They wanted a central space where you could sit down and see everyone else and then decide in a typically casual Cambridge way whether you wanted to talk to them."

His tiers of balconies are like the boxes of an 18th-century opera house, with intervening columns giving privacy. "I have taken a traditional column and beam architecture and made it function. I call it the Robotic Order."

His columns are 5ft across for a reason. They contain all the wires, ducts, pipes and switchboxes and are large enough for a man to work in. "Engineering has, or should have, no image. The idea of covering a building in pipes and wires is interesting but it is not good engineering."

Outram plans his interior with a breathtaking palette of 30 colours. "I've invented a way of transferring an image designed on a computer screen onto plaster. I call it video-secco. You print out the pattern onto A3 sheets, put liquid on the paper and plaster, leave it for a few hours and the pattern is transferred permanently onto the column."

Alas Outram's ideas by the time were developing at a speed approaching Mach 2 and his clients took fright. The interior of the building has been given to architects Fitzroy Robinson. They have re-

mained true to Outram's concept but reduced the palette to ten colours, rarely more than two at a time.

Outram is philosophical. "The building is a strong statement as it is, the rest of the decoration can always be added later," he says.

This is Outram's biggest building yet and proves resoundingly that his love of colour and heroic scale can produce popular architecture. The Judge Institute has already helped land him a major commission in Texas. "One critic there has already dubbed it a monster. But I take heart from the French philosopher who said: 'Nature makes monsters sterile. When monsters begin to replicate you know they can't be monsters after all.'"

Offspring impress

DANCE
10 Dancers Ensemble
Sadler's Wells

School in his case — and he seems fascinated by the beautiful physiques and technical sophistication of his dancers.

In *Sh-Boom* Lightfoot explores how such finely tuned performers can find expression in every conceivable part of their bodies. His musical references (the piece is set to popular songs, including Vera Lynn's *Up With The Sun*) are unexpected yet apt. Humour figures largely: the men are in underwear, one of them dances

with a pot, and the women — who generally have the upper hand — wield torches. The piece ends, like the recording of Stan Freberg's *Sh-Boom*, locked in a choreographic groove.

Lightfoot's other contribution, *Sigue*, is a duet in which he and Sol Leon find strength and hope in each other. The final image lingers: dancers clutching each other on the floor as a gentle rain blesses them through the spotlight.

Inger is also responsible for two works, one a duet, *Time An Angel*, that opens the programme in playful mood, the man left grovelling at the feet of a woman who couldn't care less. *Next* (set to string quartets by Gorecki and Niyman) is also about male-female relationships, although here, in a trio, the tone is less certain. The two men and one woman shift through clasp of

desperation and arcing arabesques straining for emotional intimacy. But when the men sling the woman away at the end, the piece reflects the blunt cynicism of its title.

Elo's *Forest Rain* is the most impenetrable of the work on offer. Two samurai swordsmen, dancers vocalising sound effects, misplaced comic relief and searchingly extensions: what does it all add up to?

As a nod to the man who sparked their creativity, the company does with a work by Kylian himself: *Secus Tazne*, an occasionally crude but diverting choreographic response to Mozart's German Dances. If 10 Dancers Ensemble has made a mistake in its programming, it has erred on the side of generosity. Its works may represent value for money, but with all of them sharing the same dance language, it does make for just too much of a good thing.

DEBIA CRABBE

LONDON

MEASURE FOR MEASURE First night of previews for Steven Pimlott's superb production from last year's Stratford. Commanding performances from Michael Fass, Alex Jennings and Stella Gonet. Barbican, Sat 8pm, EC2 (0171-438 8811). From tonight, 7.30pm, opens June 7.

ISLINGTON ON PARADE The first Islington International Festival takes off today with a French Big Top, music and theatre in the street and community events. One highlight is the *Le Petit Ange*, Mozart at Christ Church and a feast of music at Union Chapel. Ek. Hobbs's fire sculpture should be a sight on the town hall roof on Sat. Information: (0171-704 6722). Today opens Sat.

SPITALFIELDS STARTERS A plot section of small-scale performances in the new Chamber Opera House closes with a long weekend of Mozart and Salieri. Appropriately based on the trials and tribulations of staging an opera, Der Schauspieler, director and prima is Alexander. For a Parole are ready to join in their original juxtaposition. Box Office: 4-5 Lamb Street, E1 (0171-247 2558). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA Vanessa Redgrave directs and plays the part of Cleopatra. Paul Butler — Shylock and the best thing in Peter Sellers' recent *Mercutio* — is her willing prey in this last production of the Moving Theatre. Riverside Studio 1, Croy Road, W6 (0181-741 2258). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 4pm. Until June 17.

DEALER'S CHOICE Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama, funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the roots of gambling. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-536 9667). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 3pm and 5.30pm.

THE DUCHESSES OF MALFI Janet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the borderland of the mind. West End, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-389 1748). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

FIVE GUYS NAMED MUE The point is jumping again now that Clarke Pimlott's *Measure for Measure* has been back into the West End. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-389 1748). Mon-Thu, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm.

GECK The 8th Barlows New Season Festival holds off with the Robert Pimlott's *Measure for Measure*, described as "stepped in steady sea". Sounds like business as usual. Theatre Royal, Court, SW1 (0171-704 2554). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

NEW RELEASES

ANGELS (V) A squad of angels help a teenage film with Danny Glover and Christopher Lloyd. William Dean. MGM. Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

BYE BYE LOVE (12) Three divorced dads spend a tedious weekend with their exes. Facile comedy with male baby boomers, with a touch of *Mad Men*. Paul Reiser and Randy Quaid. Orion. Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

THE SEXUAL LIFE OF THE BELGIANS (18) Funny, quirky sexual odyssey. First in an autobiographical trilogy from Belgium's cultural anarchist, Jan Burtin. MCM. Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

AT A FEAST AT MIDNIGHT (PG) A feast but enjoyable. Crisp on an English boarding school, with Freddie Finkel and Christopher Lee. MGM. Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

THE MANGLER (18) Lame and silly horror film from a Stephen King story about a bloody laundry machine. With Robert Englund. MCM. Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

RICHIE RICH (PG) 20th-century millionaire comes to his parents' rescue. D.J. Overland.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE
EDINBURGH Wade's centenary celebration continues, with another production of the wonderfully witty *Measure for Measure*. Richard Sutton directs, with Victoria Hardcastle, Pamela Kelly, Simon Egerton and James Taylor. Royal Lyceum, Groaty Street (0131-229 9897). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat June 3, 3.15pm. Until June 24.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

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Richard II *Landscapes of France*

■ OPERA 1

Covent Garden's production of *Billy Budd* is not to be missed, as long as you have a strong enough stomach



■ OPERA 2

David Alden may have been back to Cardiff to tidy up his production of *Elektra*, but it still doesn't work

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ OPERA 3

Excellent voices on stage and a magisterial Charles Mackerras in the pit for *The Cunning Little Vixen* in Paris



■ JAZZ

The list of British jazz greats has been increased by one: you can add the name of trumpeter Guy Barker

Outstanding Britten at Covent Garden ... brutalist Strauss in Cardiff ... misguided Janáček in Paris

A nation lost in deep waters

As is the case with all good operas, perceptions of *Budd* change with the passing of time. In 1951 it was probably thought to be about a peculiarly knotty problem of naval discipline, about "doing the right thing". As the officers repeat, nervously, at the Court martial, "we've no choice". More recently it has been admitted (sharp intake of breath, voices lowered in embarrassment) that homoeroticism might play a part — cue for a number of glistening, torso stagings.

Today we have advanced a stage further than the particularity of an opera with an all-male cast ("and wasn't Joan cross", as the wags of the day put it) and see *Budd* as a much broader, indeed devastating analysis of English society in general, of the class system, of hypocrisy, of fake paternalism that retreats in disorder when the cards are down. Like the near-contemporary *Brideshead Revisited*, the opera depicts pitilessly the absolute hell of being English.

Or so it seemed in Francesca Zambello's fine production, first seen in Geneva last year and bought in by the Royal Opera. Perhaps it takes an outsider — Zambello is American — to turn the screw on us. Not that the locker-room element is ignored: extras mingle with the chorus for some pretty tactile scenes below decks, but mercifully the evening transcends the approach of "Billy Budd's first day at his public school".

The production also restores the original four-act text (but with only one interval) revised by Britten after the initial run.

The main difference is that we get the so-called "Captain's Muster" at the end of the first act, suppressed in its entirety. It is said that the composer was wounded by the critic Ernest Newman's reference to *HMS Pinafore*, and that kind of facetious reaction does in itself indicate a decidedly "English" way of avoiding the issues raised in the work.

But the Muster is part of the opera's structure: we see Vere adored by his men, and hear

Billy Budd Covent Garden

— much more clearly than in the revision — the hideous irony of Budd singing "I'll die for you". Indeed he will. The parallel with the near-mutiny of the finale is greatly strengthened. We are also introduced to Vere as a man of action rather than a classicist master. The other changes are mainly nips and tucks, but the slightly longer version of Claggart's accusation brings a sense of the Master at Arms not so much challenging Vere as seeking to draw him into colluding in the elimination of troublesome sailor. The original *Budd* should be heard more frequently in future, and to hell with critics.

Tuesday's performance was well-nigh unwatchable, which is as it should be. Alison Chitty's false stage extends over the pit, and the action is thrust right into the audience's lap. At first I had doubts about some of Zambello's effects; the Muster is a big production number, but when it was

echoed visually by the hanging of Budd, executed with sickening realism, it all fell into place. Budd's corpse is left swinging for the rest of the opera, right through Vere's maudlin Epilogue. Budd's Christ-like pose on Chitty's Cross-of-Lorraine mast seemed slightly over the top, but the Passion element is in the piece, and Vere's Pontius Pilate washing-of-hands at the court martial froze the blood. Both victim and executioner knew precisely what was happening.

The cast is outstanding. Rodney Gilfry has the physique of a role for Budd but, more important, sings absolutely beautifully. I long to hear him in *Lieder*. Graham Clark was suffering from a chest infection, but sang strongly and graphically conveyed Vere's self-knowledge and his implacability in the face thereof. He found no peace in the Epilogue. John Tomlinson's magnificent Claggart was similarly a portrait in self-knowledge rather than just evil: his monologue was an expression of profound personal tragedy as much as an Iago-style Credo. There is marvellous support from John Connell (Danvers), David Wilson-Johnson and Gidon Saks as the officers, and Mark Tucker and David Ellis (Novice and Friend). John Dwyer's Addams Family Squeak, though, seems to be long in another opera. The capable conductor is Robert Spano, and the augmented chorus is on cracking form. Not, for those with strong stomachs, to be missed.

RODNEY MILNES



Rodney Gilfry as Billy Budd and Graham Clark as Captain Vere in the new Covent Garden production of Benjamin Britten's opera, directed by Francesca Zambello

Bare bulb sheds no new light

Elektra New Theatre, Cardiff

David Alden's production of Richard Strauss's *Elektra* sorely tried Rodney Milnes's patience when it was new three years ago. Alden has been back to tidy it up, but it still verges on self-parody.

There is much rolling on the floor. Expressionist shadow-play flickers against a tiled washhouse wall. The severed head of an ox provides plenty of gore for body-smearing before Strauss's real and very visible blood-letting truly begins. And, yes, a naked lightbulb dangles from the flies so that Elektra can strangle herself with a handy flex at the end.

Alden fans doubtless will be relieved that the familiar trademarks of the old brutality are in place. The rest of us will note that we have been here

before and wonder whether the house of Atreus was ever quite like this.

Close your eyes and another far more potent world emerges. Or rather half close them, for Alden has the gift of drawing extraordinarily unimpaired performances from his cast.

At the centre is Mary Lloyd-Davies's Elektra, who casts into the wings at the start any constraints she might ever have felt. Barefoot in a shapeless black sack, she begins by plodding the stage with the bovine movements of that ox before it lost its head. The voice is much younger and fresher than those of most

sopranos who take on Elektra. It already has a Wagnerian strength and glow and also, in Elektra's final and short-lived triumph, a serenity that recalls her compatriot Rita Hunter.

As yet Lloyd-Davies misses some of the mockery in the part. But she is the latest in the line of top-class home-grown sopranos the WNO has been unveiling. She is booked at the Coliseum as Isolde. London, please note.

The new Chrysothemis, the Swedish soprano Clarry Bartha, on her British debut, is almost as impressive. Physically she is an improbable sister, with her figure showing well in the white underwear demanded. Such Alden indignities never cloud the voice, another of Wagnerian size, at least in a house of Cardiff's proportions. She alone handled the German text with assurance.

Felicity Palmer repeated her original Clytemnestra. She is not the conventional raddled and bejewelled hag, but a society hostess a bit down on her luck yet still with plenty of venom in the tongue.

The men were ordinary. Philip Joll's Orestes carries too much vibrato and Jeffrey Lawton's Aegisthus almost fell into an early grave Elektra was digging for him. Mark Wiggleworth, conducting, had a superb evening. The climaxes were electric and so were the rhythms of those half-glanced waltzes in which the score abounds. A pity the only electricity the production carries is a naked 60 watt bulb.

JOHN HIGGINS

Dancing back to the drawing board

ONE of the many endearing things about the Châtelet, home of the Théâtre Musical de Paris, is the thick layer of dust coating the auditorium. Rodney Milnes writes. Home is it most certainly is, but the more one hears there, the more one realises that it also boasts the most extraordinary acoustics. Maybe the grubbiness is all part of it. But in the wake of works as disparate as the Ring, *Wozzeck* and *King Arthur*, all of which worked marvelously in terms of sound, the main — only — attraction of this new Vixen is the splendour of the orchestra's contribution under the direction of Charles Mackerras.

Playing Janáček can hardly be second nature to the Orchestre de Paris, but it sounded as though it were — it would have been a privilege to sit in on rehearsals. The sound was full, lushly late-romantic, but absolutely clear: the tense musculature of Janáček's writing was always to the fore. Yet — and this is what is so extraordinary about the acoustics — the voices (and words) were always audible, floating on easily over the sumptuous barrage of sound from the pit.

And excellent voices they were: Thomas Allen in fine form as the Forester: the Slovak soprano Eva Jenis, her authentically gritty tone perfect for the Vixen; her Czech colleague Hana Minutillo elegantly mellifluous as the Fox (though the top notes of this curiously written role do test mezzo); and the veteran Moravian bass Richard Novak just perfect as the Badger and Priest. Two more Czechs, Josef Hajna and Ivan Kujner, sang the Schoolmaster and Poacher. The piece was performed in the original Moravian, with helpful surtitles. Musically, Monday's first night was a joy. Mackerras has never sounded more magisterial — and that, since he has been conducting Janáček for 40 years, is saying a lot.

But something went wildly awry with the production, credited to Nicholas Hytner. It should perhaps more properly have been credited to the choreographer Jean-Claude Gallotta, whose 20-plus corps de ballet more or less took over, in choreography as horrible as only French choreography can be — all high kicks, angular port de bras and general scampering about. Its cuteness made Ashton's *Tales of Beatrix Potter* look the very pinnacle of anthropomorphic sophistication.

Add some crass effects built into Bob Crowley's garish decor — a vision of Terynka in a giant sunflower, and a Folies-Bergère number for Vixen-as-woman involving a balloon — and there was precious little left for Hytner actually to direct. The first pub scene was played behind a gauze with top lighting, so you couldn't see the singers' faces, but in the second and in the few moments of the finale when Allen was blissfully alone on stage, you saw what could have been if the choreographer had been disposed of on day one of rehearsals.

Janáček took a newspaper strip cartoon and transformed it into a profound meditation on the mystery of human life and the natural world; to witness it being reduced back to strip-cartoon level was simply intolerable.

FROM THE ROOT TO THE BUDD

LONDON Royal Opera House June 15
INSPIRED by Herman Melville's novel, and with a libretto by E.M. Forster and Eric Crozier, Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd* is the grandest of grand operas, the story of a man persecuted to the point where he becomes a murderer — but so much more than that. The opera will be performed in the original four-act version treated for the Royal Opera in 1951 and not heard at Covent Garden since that season. Rodney Gilfry sings the part of Billy. Graham Clark plays Captain Vere and John Tomlinson takes the part of John Claggart. It is directed by Francesca Zambello, adapting her critically

praised Geneva production of last spring. Theatre Club members can buy orchestra stall tickets for £72, a saving of £18 on the normal price, for performances tonight and next Monday. Telephone 0171-304 4000 to book. Membership of The Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year. To join, ring 01206 791737. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

Just an eclectic kind of Guy

Guy Barker's musicianly virtues have earned him a place among the contemporary British jazz greats

The 1980s alliance of jazz and fashion generated a great deal of excitement, but trumpeter Guy Barker recognises that any lasting relationship between jazz and its public in the 1990s must be built on more solid qualities, such as integrity and dedication, respect and commitment. Barker, at 37, is a firm believer in musicianly values: "Preparation is everything in all forms of music: if you're properly prepared, then you can be in control. If you're haphazard about it, you're in trouble." He learnt his trade not only on the bandstand in the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (which he joined at 13) but also at the Royal College of Music. He then balanced experience in larger units, such as those of John Dankworth and Mike Westbrook, with work with smaller groups under Stan Tracey and his drummer son Clark, while earning money to subsidise these jazz interests with studio and film-soundtrack work.

He was in his early thirties before releasing an album under his own name, *Holly J* on Miles Music, and it was four more years before he recorded another, *Isn't It?*, for Spotlite. While both these albums are highly enjoyable, showcasing both Barker's technical assurance and growing confidence as a composer, there is a slight whiff of the ad hoc about each. Barker acknowledges that it took the combined backing of a major label, Verve, and Scottish promoter Roger Spence to provide him with the time and resources necessary to form a band unequivocally dedicated to playing Barker music.

The resultant quintet, an international affair featuring Icelandic alto player Sigi Flosason and Portuguese pianist Bernardo Sassetti alongside the long-established rhythm team from the Dankworth Generation Band of drummer Ralph Salmis and bassist Alec Dankworth, has now produced an album, *Into the Blue*, which places Barker firmly where he deserves to be: in the growing ranks of world-class British jazz players.

The bulk of the album's music is written by Barker, and ranges from neoclassical swing to whip-smart post-bop, but there are also nods towards the unambiguously modern jazz of Ornette Coleman, and back to the music's origins with the closing track, *Weather Bird Rag*.

Barker has earned the right to such eclecticism the hard way. He remembers a typical three-week period in the late 1980s: "I did a week at Ronnie Scott's with Stan Tracey, then some Bix Beiderbecke recreation concerts, then I went to

Italy with Ornette Coleman. You can only learn about the vast wealth of music around you by dipping into it. The value of such wide-ranging experience is demonstrated by the poised, articulate maturity everywhere apparent on Barker's album: *Into the Blue* is unmistakably the work of one guiding musical hand. Barker is no mere musical magpie: he has assimilated from the jazz tradition everything from ragtime through swing to bop and beyond, and has both the technical skill and the artistic imagination to create a highly individual synthesis from all his chosen elements.

What is most encouraging for British jazz generally, however, is the fact that Barker is only one of the most prominent examples of what many see as a general raising of jazz-musicianship standards in 1990s Britain. He cites a



Barker: "You can only learn by dipping in"

parallel with athletics, being firmly convinced that purely technical prowess will always improve with time, but finds most comfort in the fact that "the heart and soul of the music is improving alongside the rest".

There are many signs that this is indeed the case. If a defining moment for 1980s British jazz was holding the 1988 Wire British Jazz Awards at fashion designer Katharine Hamnett's London premises, a defining moment for the 1990s came in October 1994, when the Brazilian composer Hermo Páscual toured Britain with an all-British big band. It turned in faultless yet fiery performances, bringing world-class skill and commitment to difficult — not to say alien — music. Leading the trumpet section was Guy Barker.

CHRIS PARKER

● *Into the Blue* is released this week on Verve.

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Daniel Johnson appraises a biography of Jeffrey Archer, the writer and politician who is perhaps our most colourful public figure



Lord Archer orating on law and order at the 1993 Conservative party conference

Michael Crick considers Archer to be "an amiable rogue" and speculates that, in spite of his eclipse since the Anglia share scandal, "he still has 20 years or more" to leave his mark. This is not a hatchet-job; Crick gives Archer the benefit of a great many doubts. Yet the evidence presented here suggests that even this political Houdini may finally have run out of tricks. Few, if any, active politicians can have had their lives so thoroughly scrutinised. But for the Anglia affair, many of Archer's friends would not, Crick says, have agreed to be interviewed.

Archer's origins were not auspicious. His parents' marriage may have been bigamous; there were two illegitimate half-brothers; his father died when he was 15. Archer himself clawed his way up from minor public school via a disastrous spell at Sandhurst, a murky period in California, another failure at the Metropolitan Police, and posts as a PE teacher, to a career at Oxford as a blue and a red politician, while also marrying the most glamorous girl in town on route. It was at Oxford, where he was only on a

Judging Jeffrey's words and deeds

JEFFREY ARCHER
Stranger than Fiction
By Michael Crick
Hamish Hamilton, £17.50

one-year teacher-training course, that he acquired his knack for enlisting the help of the famous and the powerful, having bounced the Beatles into supporting an Oxford appeal.

After Oxford, Archer became an art dealer and an all-purpose impresario, but he was already wildly overconfident about money matters, and so made numerous enemies. The more gentlemanly business code which operated in

the 1960s favoured young men on the make, however, and the rollercoaster of Archer's career took him into the House of Commons at the age of 29.

After his subsequent resignation, having nearly gone bankrupt over the Aquablast affair, Archer showed his mettle by forging two new careers as a writer and, with Mrs Thatcher's patronage, as a politician. Crick is excellent on the intensive editing and rewriting process which an Archer novel undergoes before it sees the light, but he also suggests that Archer has had the best of the bargain: HarperCollins, he claims, has yet to recoup \$26 million of the \$30 million it paid for three books in 1990. Even more amazing was Archer's victory in the most sensational libel trial since

Oscar Wilde's. To call him "the most colourful character in British public life" is only a slight exaggeration. He certainly makes the best journalists' copy.

He seems to have inherited his dynamism from his mother Lola, whose own ambitions, both as a writer and as a politician, young Jeffrey took over. One is struck by the similarities in background between Archer and his friend John Major: the two evidently recognised that they could be useful to each other long before Mrs Thatcher's fall, with Major even offering Archer financial advice — as Crick says, not the usual function of a serving Chancellor of the Exchequer. Archer's peacocks, and Major's continuing loyalty, are his reward for real services to two prime ministers, over which Crick inevitably skates lightly.

Archer is a doer: he has done much for his reading public, his charities and his party, even more for his friends. Most of all, however, he has done for himself — by every sense of the phrase. Archer can blame nobody else for his self-destructive overconfidence, least of all journalists like Crick who remind him of it.

Why good taste has a dubious pedigree

Caveat emptor. Despite its ambitious subtitle, this book does not attempt to survey the politics of architecture and design over 400 years, but contents itself with a miscellaneous selection of ideas about architecture congenial to the author. Nor, despite its censorious title, is it a polemic against taste; it is a polemic against the final few of the 400 years, taste is the hero of the story.

In the loose and shapeless form in which taste is presented here, it would be difficult not to admire it. Taste — or "good design" — means to the author the attachment of practically any social, moral or aesthetic values to the production and consumption of goods. The only attitude that seems to lie outside of taste is an absolutist view of all production and consumption as good in themselves, a view which Lubbock pins on a few damned souls like the 17th-century property developer Nicholas Barbon, the 18th-century polemicist Bernard de Mandeville and (with reservations) Adam Smith. Nevertheless, Lubbock claims taste as a distinctively British tradition which no one has yet properly understood but of which we should be proud.

It all began with Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I's chief minister. He and his successors built their great rural palaces not in order to show off their riches, but to provide employment, raise the aesthetic standards of the community, and ensure that these benefits were not confined to London. (The same seems to apply to those landowners who razed entire villages to

clear landscape parks for their country houses.) Neither are the squares of London's West End symbols of private opulence, but rather of the nobility of the "Burghleyan system", its concern for open spaces and public footpaths.

You would think that this "Burghleyan system" — even if it existed in the form the author imagines in the 17th century — would break down in the 18th century, the period par excellence of the free

commercial spirit. Not a bit of it. As soon as Burghleyan taste is threatened with marginalisation, Lubbock annexes new forms. Addison's efforts in *The Spectator* to define taste outside of State control and as an adjunct to free commerce become the new core of taste. In these 18th-century sections Lubbock makes some fine and useful distinctions, but then they get melted back together in the name of his continuous tradition. Hogarth and Burlington — sworn enemies in their own time — enter the academy of Taste together; so, too, does David Hume. Even Adam Smith is commended for considering beauty as a component of commercial progress, but in the end has regrettably to be shown the door.

By this means Lubbock can take us as far as the 1830s and only then find that the "Burghleyan system" was fragmenting. The Industrial Revolution was a terrible failure, he complains (shades of 1066 and All That). Fortunately, a new wave of taste was in the offing. Once again, polar opposites can sit together so long as they have some moral or aesthetic position to advocate beyond sheer consumerism. The design reformer Henry Cole (of the Great Exhibition and the Victoria & Albert Museum) is seen as the heir of Burghley and *The Spectator*, but so are those who defended prevailing standards of design determined by the market; both Cole's pronouncements on good design and Dickens's famous denunciation of them in *Hard Times* are "in the tradition of Addison".

After (more sensibly) roping in Ruskin, Lubbock then overleaps the Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts movements and lands in the 1930s. Thus we arrive at the most curious twist in this very curious book. Modernists, who throughout the book have been referred to obliquely as the 20th-century revivalists of the "Burghleyan system", instead come in for a drubbing. Only with the Modern Movement does taste's hitherto beneficent and highly catholic function in curbing runaway consumerism collapse into tyranny. Modernists are viewed as a mere "coterie", whereas all their tasteful predecessors represented something more elevated and more meaningful in national life. Modernists' ideas of town planning some-

Peter Mandler

THE TYRANNY OF TASTE
The Politics of Architecture and Design in Britain 1550-1960
By Jules Lubbock
Yale, £35

leaps the Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts movements and lands in the 1930s. Thus we arrive at the most curious twist in this very curious book. Modernists, who throughout the book have been referred to obliquely as the 20th-century revivalists of the "Burghleyan system", instead come in for a drubbing. Only with the Modern Movement does taste's hitherto beneficent and highly catholic function in curbing runaway consumerism collapse into tyranny. Modernists are viewed as a mere "coterie", whereas all their tasteful predecessors represented something more elevated and more meaningful in national life. Modernists' ideas of town planning some-

how marked a "major break" with a tradition that had remained unbroken since Stuart times. Outrageously selective quotation portrays even the mildest Modernists as raving totalitarians.

Worst of all, the Modernists were equipped by the welfare State with awesome powers. Here Lubbock's simple-minded view of politics comes in handy. Just as the early Stuarts were seen to have magic powers to control the shape of London for good, so Modernists can be blamed for London gone bad. Poor W.G. Hollford, whose plans for Piccadilly Circus and St Paul's were in reality crushed by the competing demands of local authorities and developers, is here credited with successfully imposing on London his evil fascination for high-rise slabs.

The sorry tale of Modernism has the effect of sobering Lubbock up. By the end of the book he is much less boosterish about "the British tradition" than he was in his opening chapters. He is no more friendly to the untrammeled marketplace, but he sees now the danger of confiding such great power to Plato's "wise minority".

Still, he feels that the British tradition "can surely be of service to humankind". For reasons of space, he declines to tell us how. This is perhaps the greatest disappointment of the book. Its highly idiosyncratic history is clearly motivated by powerful feelings about architecture and design today. Surely the author should have let those feelings rip, rather than spend 15 years, 400 pages, and (he tells us) £250,000 in providing them with a dubious pedigree.



Modernist taste: in 1977 David Wild designed 44 Rochester Place in London's Camden Town so that it would contrast with, yet also respond to, its context of 19th-century terraces; from *Modern House* by John Welsh (Phaidon, £45)

Embodiments of the humane mind

In the late summer of 1848 a highly efficient and capable worker on the Vermont railroad, Phineas Gage, survived an astounding injury. The premature detonation of some explosive powder propelled an iron rod into his left cheek from below. It traversed the front of his brain, landing a hundred feet off. To the amazement of his workmates he was able to speak within minutes.

With the help of the physician who later described his case, Dr John Harlow, Gage appeared to make a remarkable recovery. But to those who had known him before the accident it was clear that it had unhinged the equilibrium "between his intellectual faculty and animal propensities". Previously shrewd, industrious and trustworthy, Gage became foul-mouthed, impetuous and obstinate. Virtually unemployable, he was for a while exhibited as a circus attraction, dying in a seizure 13 years after the accident.

Gage had lost "something uniquely human, the ability to plan his future as a social being". Antonio Damasio is a distinguished American neurologist who has taken a special interest in individuals like Gage who have suffered

Adam Zeman

DESCARTES' ERROR
Emotion, Reason and the Human Brain
By Antonio Damasio
Picador, £16.99



Study of a brain dissection by Andreas Vesalius, 1543, reproduced in *The Body Embellished* by Jonathan Sawday (Routledge, £35)

selective damage to the frontal lobes of their brains.

Their performance on standard IQ tests may be faultless, but it is beyond their powers to chart a steady course through the social and professional shoals of life. Damasio argues that their repeated shipwrecks are the result of a disconnection between reason and emotion, between those parts of the cerebral cortex which confer our abstract intellectual powers and the more ancient brain structures which govern human feeling.

The frontal cortex — the frontal part of the convoluted outer mantle of the brain — is

well equipped to serve the role Damasio proposes. Contemporary neuroscience has emphasised the independence of numerous parallel streams of activity in the brain.

One of the few areas which is privy to the bulk of this activity, the frontal cortex receives information widely from both sensory regions and areas concerned with more visceral matters, appetites and aversions. It appears to combine these streams to categorise events in the light of their personal significance, and it occupies a commanding anatomical position from which to influence the brain's responses.

Damasio, like William James, emphasises the role of "bodily symptoms" in our emotions. Our feelings unfold as the body responds to the brain's appraisal of events, and the response is itself incorporated into feeling. He absorbingly outlines the evidence for the interruption of this dialogue between reason and feeling in his patients. Its absence results in an impoverishment of emotional response which may be subtle, but is personally disastrous.

There has been a cascade of recent books insisting on the embodiment of mind, and thus denying the "error" of Cartesian dualism. Damasio's is an idiosyncratic and engaging addition to the stream. I enjoyed it most where its focus is sharpest, on the predicament of his patients and its complex explanation. He generally resists the temptation to resort to purple prose, and allows his patients to remind us how badly reason and emotion need each other.

THIS fascinating study illustrates 48 of the most controversial and hotly contested architectural competitions held over the last two centuries. It begins with the White House in Washington and ranges across the Paris, Vienna and Sydney opera houses, the Eiffel Tower, the Houses of Parliament, the new capitals of Canberra and Brasília and the Kansai Airport at Osaka.

The might-have-beens are often as evocative as the masterpieces actually built. Among these are Zaha Hadid's project for the Peak in Hong Kong, which brought her world fame overnight in 1992 but was abandoned; now she is threatened with the same fate in the Cardiff Opera House competition.

Similarly the megalomaniac Palace of the Soviets and People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry, designed for

Aesthetics is a neglected branch of philosophy, though not because few people write about it. On the contrary, more is produced in aesthetics than in any other area of the subject. Aesthetics is not neglected by philosophers, but only by good philosophers, who for a variety of reasons have gravitated to a few narrow fields judged to be "central". This neglect of aesthetics has led to a catastrophic shrivelling of the philosophical quest — a retreat from those experiences that are most charged with the mystery of our condition into a world of donnish trivia.

It is not only students of aesthetics, therefore, who should welcome Malcolm Budd's recent ventures into the subject. Budd is a first-rate thinker, whose work on Wittgenstein has been deservedly influential. He brings to aesthetics formidable gifts of precision, far-sightedness and argument, together with a wide philosophical knowledge and a sincere belief in the importance of art.

Moreover, his acquaintance with art does not come from the posturing "art world" and is entirely untouched by fashion. His moral seriousness recalls the Cambridge of his youth; and while

Landmarks in blueprint

Marcus Binney

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS
Volume I: 1792-1947
Volume II: 1947-93
By Cees de Jong and Erik Mattie
Benedikt Taschen, £49.99

Moscow in the 1930s, both lapsed with the outbreak of war. The latter was a castle to rival the Kremlin, surmounted by four vast towers thrusting into the sky like rockets on a launchpad.

Among the most intriguing buildings are those that look backwards rather than forwards. Stockholm's extraordinary town hall of the 1920s, modelled on 16th and 17th century Swedish architecture, seems in many ways straight out of Hollywood. Similarly, the Gothic and Classical designs for the Chicago Tribune Tower of 1922 are much more striking than the forward-looking entries by European architects which prefigure the sleek, unornamented skyscrapers of postwar years.

The book is all the more relevant today now that competitions are an essential feature of all major public works in the European Union as well as many National Lottery projects. Though the tendency is towards invited competitions in which already famous or ascendant talents compete, the true competition is an open one, allowing unknown archi-

texts to put forward daring schemes that will capture the imagination of both judges and the public. How different might have been the careers of Sir Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano had they not won the Pompidou Centre competition in 1970.

But open competitions are most prone to go wrong, especially when the client does not like the jury's choice. Juries, however distinguished, are fallible, like the jury for the Bastille Opera which was convinced — wrongly — that it had chosen a design by the acclaimed American architect Richard Meier.

The basis of a competition must be a well-considered brief, where the clients have been talked at length through

their needs. The clients must also be involved in the selection process, so as to be completely committed to the winner by the end, and willing to champion the winner in any controversy that arises.

Among the less familiar buildings in this book, one that stands out powerfully is the Supreme Court in Tokyo, won in competition in 1969 by Shin-ichi Okada. The jury had required a building that exuded an aura of dignity. Okada produced a design as inspiringly monumental as the great visionary designs of the French Revolutionary age — proclaiming in every massive stone that while justice may be severe it will be fair.

This lavish book is a serious addition to any architectural bookshelf which will resolve and enliven any number of dinner-table disputes about the world's great landmarks.

A philosopher who thinks art matters

Roger Scruton

VALUES OF ART
By Malcolm Budd
Penguin, £20

Eliot, Leavis and Cleanth Brooks have profoundly influenced his thinking. There is not a trace to be found in him of Barthes or Greenberg, of Foucault, Derrida or De Man. Some would regard this as a weakness; further proof, if we needed it, of the cultural isolation of academic philosophy. In fact, when it comes to the real questions about the meaning and value of art, the post-modernist culture has nothing to say; Budd's interest in these real questions absolves him from the need to discuss the prevailing chatter.

Values of Art begins in familiar territory, arguing that the value of art

is not instrumental but intrinsic — which means, according to Budd, that the experience of a work of art is intrinsically worthwhile. Artistic value is a "sentiment-dependent" property, and, in a complex discussion of Kant, Budd tries to reconcile this with the "inter-subjective" nature of aesthetic judgement.

After this brief attempt at a general theory of aesthetic value, Budd turns his attention to three separate arts: painting, poetry and music. The chapter on painting is the least interesting since its thesis — that our interest in a figurative painting is quite different from our interest in the scene depicted — is scarcely new. Far more important is the chapter on poetry in which Budd makes an illuminating connection between T.S. Eliot's problem concerning the poet's beliefs (can we value a poem and despise the beliefs expressed by it) and the unsolved paradox of

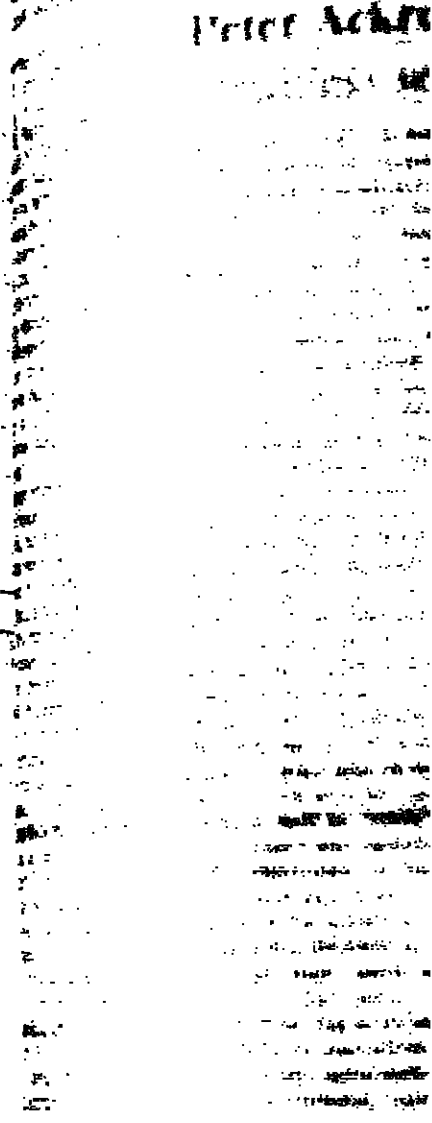
tragedy (can we take pleasure in that which distresses us?).

The best chapter is the last, on music: a clear and careful defence of the view that music's expressive power is a major source of its value. Budd advances a sophisticated version of a theory once encapsulated by Carroll Pratt in an aphorism: music sounds as emotions feel. There is much in the argument with which one can disagree. For instance, Budd assumes that the expressive character of a piece of music has no necessary connection with the musical "argument". Nevertheless, the care with which Budd's argument is expounded, and the honest confrontation of objections, make this chapter into a major statement, and one which raises musical aesthetics to a new level of sophistication.

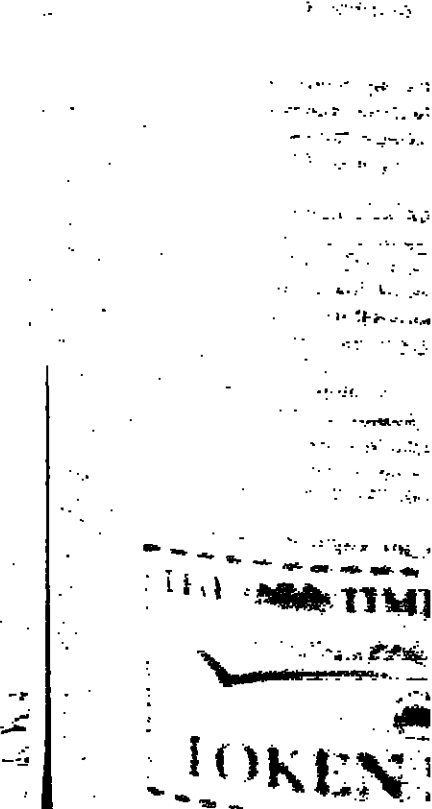
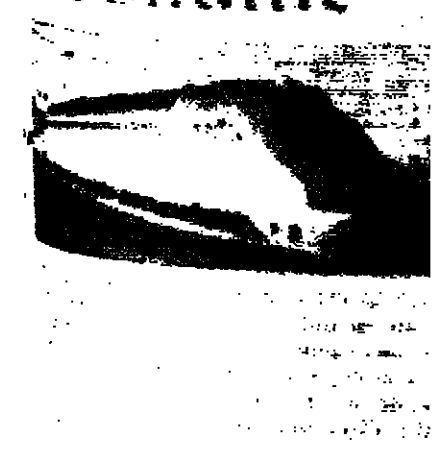
Values of Art is not an easy book. Budd's analytical method leads to a cagey and involuted style. Nor will the ordinary reader be pleased by "she" as an impersonal pronoun. But if these faults bother this reader, they will not bother his philosophical colleagues, most of whom write far more clumsily than Budd, and all of whom would learn much from his subtlety.

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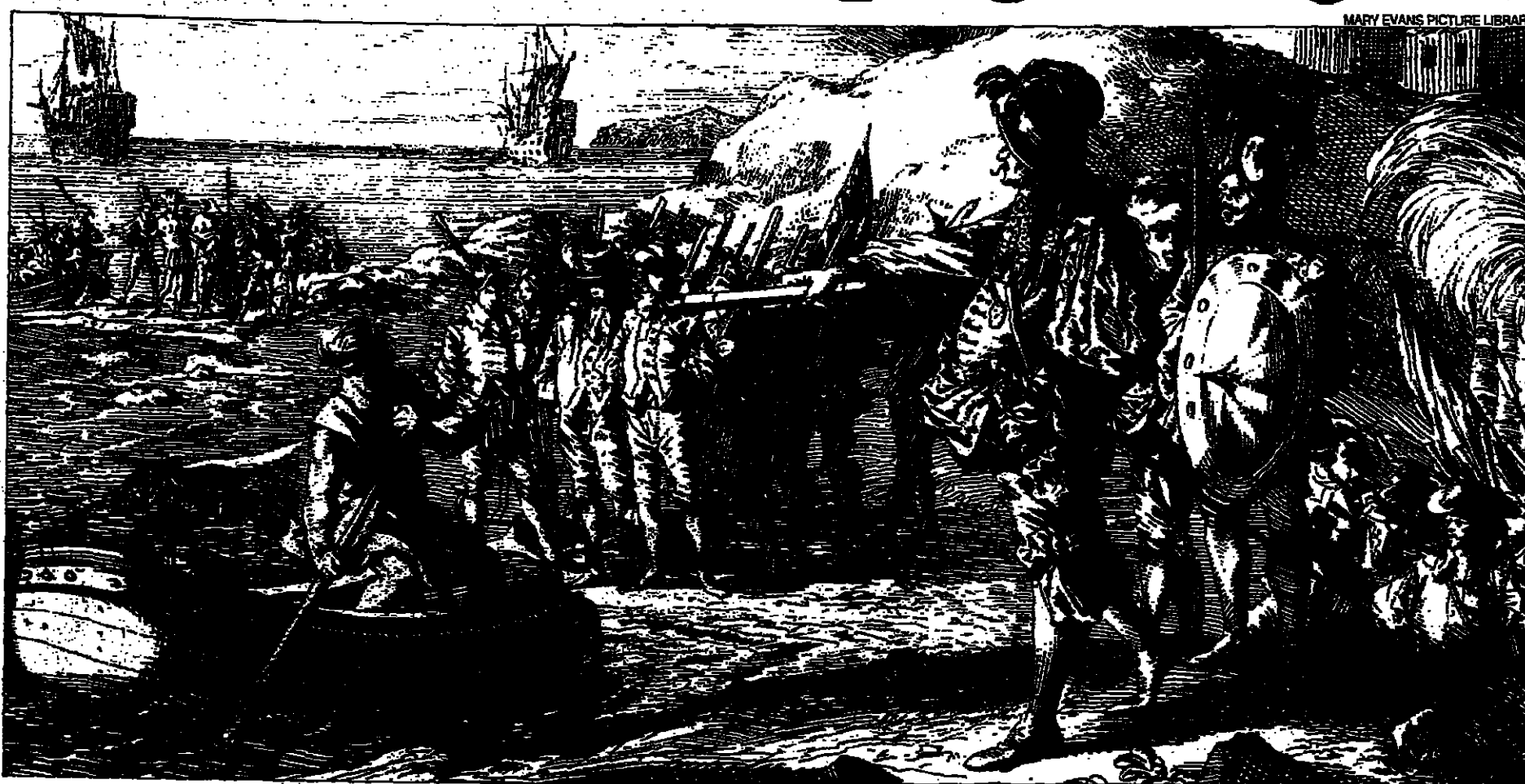
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A passionate pilgrimage



Raleigh taking Trinidad in 1595; to the south lay the Guiana coast and the Orinoco, whose delta he traversed in search of the fabulous golden city of Elizabethan dreams

The first "entrada" occurred 400 years ago, in June 1595, when Walter Raleigh sailed towards "El Dorado", in this narrative Charles Nicholl retraces his path. Nicholl has re-entered the past before—in *The Reckoning* he recreated with great imaginative fervour the vicissitudes of Christopher Marlowe's short life. Here he moves out of London into the jungles of Venezuela where he finds another "landscape in parts unchanged from what those early travellers saw".

Raleigh believed El Dorado to lie beside a great lake in Guiana, but of course its true location was to be found upon the map of Elizabethan fantasies. But if it took the shape of the 16th-century imagination, it also takes that of our own: in this perceptive account Nicholl manages to explore all the historiographical and meta-chronological obsessions of the late 20th century. Nicholl traces Raleigh's map and finds that the spot he marked, as the destination for his quest, is now to be found "on top of Auyan Tepuy, otherwise known as Devil Mountain". So, when Nicholl follows the trail of his predecessor, when in a sense he becomes Raleigh, what will he discover? Both of them had to travel along the Orinoco where, according to one Span-

Peter Ackroyd on a haunting recreation of Sir Walter Raleigh's fruitless search for El Dorado, the lost Utopia — or Dystopia

ish explorer, "there is nothing on the river except despair". El Dorado has always been a fateful and haunted place — it is Utopia, or Dystopia, somewhere out of this world. The delta and jungles of the region have always been a place of inverse rule, where the sequestered solitude could drive men mad. The heat was supposed to dry the blood of Englishmen, so that they became the withered emblems of their own ambition.

Raleigh was nothing if not ambitious. He left England in poverty and disgrace, and Nicholl gives an excellent account of his obsession for glory when, in his wife's words, he sailed "forward towards the sunset". His adventure, or pilgrimage, was the only means by which he could re-order and reclaim his life. He took with him an alchemist's quest for gold, and his quest, as now to be found "on top of Auyan Tepuy, otherwise known as Devil Mountain". So, when Nicholl follows the trail of his predecessor, when in a sense he becomes Raleigh, what will he discover? Both of them had to travel along the Orinoco where, according to one Span-

Nicholl's decision to follow his trail may seem a little contrived (he takes a television crew) but at its best this matching of narratives manages more accurately than any conventional history to

revive the actual nature of Raleigh's expedition. Within the account of the 20th-century journey, placed beside the historical description of the earlier, it is possible to retrieve some joint memory of the creeks, the swamps, the vultures and the flourishing ibis as they existed then and as they have continued without interruption ever since.

The Creature in the Map represents more than the revival of one special location. It is also concerned with that fascination with place which plays so large a part in such recent books as Simon Schama's *Landscape and Memory* and Raphael Samuel's *Theatres of Memory*. At the end of the century, are preoccupied with the notion of territory as an historical force, it seems that we all live upon haunted ground. So it is that, while many academic writers are moving further and further into theory, it has been left for others to give learning a local habitation and a name.

Yet each generation makes up its own myth. Raleigh's own account of his voyage, in *Discoverie of Guiana*, is almost a pastoral exercise; the representative of the Virgin Queen meets the noble savage, and in his carefully composed narrative there is no lewdness and little violence. He never found his golden city, but Raleigh managed to conceal or subliminate his disappointment by continuing the metaphors of virginity and wilderness. He never intended to be a despoiler, and so the dream remained intact.

But Nicholl and his team go on beyond Raleigh, and pass "the furthest point of his entrada", into that region where the golden city of El Dorado might still be found. They fly in a twin-engine Cessna over the territory and discover to their surprise that the legend does indeed continue. Nicholl is told the story of an aviator, aptly named Jimmy Angel, who in the 1920s discovered a "river of gold" in the same area as Raleigh's projection of El Dorado. It is appropriate

that Conan Doyle should have used this place as the setting for his *Lost World*. In turn Nicholl encounters hermits and exiles who have settled there and who seem to be adrift in some dream or fantasy from which they can never escape.

One of these jungle exiles, a Latvian named Alexander Laime, claims that the area which Raleigh traversed was a primeval "solar observatory". He has also seen pleiosaur fossils by a pool near the summit of Devil Mountain. The "creature" in Raleigh's map, after which this book is named, can then be seen to be more than a curiously drawn lake with its tributaries: it becomes "a projection, a figment, a kind of haunting" which represents all those fears and dreams which lie at the other side of the known world of consciousness.

There is in fact real El Dorado; it is a "small mining town" established during the gold rush of the last century. It is just a small South American settlement where nothing ever happens. Raleigh, like Nicholl, returned disappointed. "From this desolate place," he wrote on his arrival in England, "I have

taking over the asylum, the pigs are loose in the yard, the centre cannot hold. But even for young Dudgeon, such freedom appears useless. After his own repressive schooling and the suffocation of small town family life he is in no fit state to enter the real world. Indeed, if Bell and Dudgeon represent Irish people old and young, then the Republic's inmates have been institutionalised too long; they cannot distinguish the dream from reality and are incapable of looking after themselves.

Such a view could be depressing and sometimes is. But it is also exhilarating. Reading the distilled goings of consciousness which pour from the minds of these characters is like being trapped on a big dipper with two articulate maniacs. Lurching from horror to hilarity, their voices madden and entertain with stories as subjective and unreliable as any eye witness's. Dates for cultural milestones such as clubs, drugs or the Irish Family Planning clinics are sometimes out of kilter. But scenes like the confrontation in the staffroom the day Malachy drank from an old teacher's special cup are horribly funny and true to their time. And vicious as they were, such characters may also leave a lingering regret for the passing of so many old native breeds.

Things begin to fall apart as a new generation of parents insist on a school trip to Waterworld instead of the usual pilgrimage to historic Kilmarnham Jail. The lunatics are

Last of the old Irishry

Aisling Foster

THE DEAD SCHOOL
By Patrick McCabe
Picador, £14.99

comely maidens dancing at cross-roads have been replaced by trunk roads and discos; and the freethinking moralities of the outside world have breezed into his school in the shapes of a feminist governor, rude children and demanding parents. Worse, his new recruit, Malachy Dudgeon, shows less dedication to the job of moulding boys' minds than to the mindblowing pleasures of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

Things begin to fall apart as a new generation of parents insist on a school trip to Waterworld instead of the usual pilgrimage to historic Kilmarnham Jail. The lunatics are

JOHN MacKenna is keenly aware that there is no single perception of reality. His first prize-winning volume, *The Fallen and Other Stories*, was linked by three tales, each called *Absent Children*, each offering a different perspective on the death of a child killed in a road accident. One man's tragedy is another's free bicycle. It all depends on what you know and how much you see.

While set once again in his native Kildare, *A Year of Our Lives* is a harsher, bleaker landscape than any he has shown us before, one where "I love you" is "that most unsatisfactory of phrases" and "the past was in a heaven locked and barred". Here too there is an *Absent Child*, the final tale, less a story than a delicate evocation of the pain inherent in being the one who lives on.

The book is punctuated, too, with four "Epistles", each written on a train by a priest whose vocation has been endangered by love. Love of a man, love of a woman, unspoken love, love rejected. Four lives, perhaps, or one life and four possibilities — glances down the road not taken. Together they blend like watercolour washes, MacKenna's precise lan-

Epistles to the absent

Erica Wagner

A YEAR OF OUR LIVES
By John MacKenna
Picador, £9.99

guage showing the elusive trace of passion "like a faded paper transfer on the back of a child's hand".

There are, however, times in this collection when the writer's fascination with absence and the things that might have been do not serve him well. The title story tells the tale of the break-up of a marriage, but brings us so close to the characters that sometimes it is hard to know what is going on. Perhaps MacKenna wants us not to understand but only to feel "the bruises on an uncertain heart". But it is hard not to wonder what is happening just out of our hearing, and frustrating, too.

Stories like this, lifted though they are by prose as lovely and as clear as blown glass, make me wish for MacKenna's next novel, where he will have the time to tell us more, to let us look from all sides at his world of regret, of love and longing.

The culture of the big house

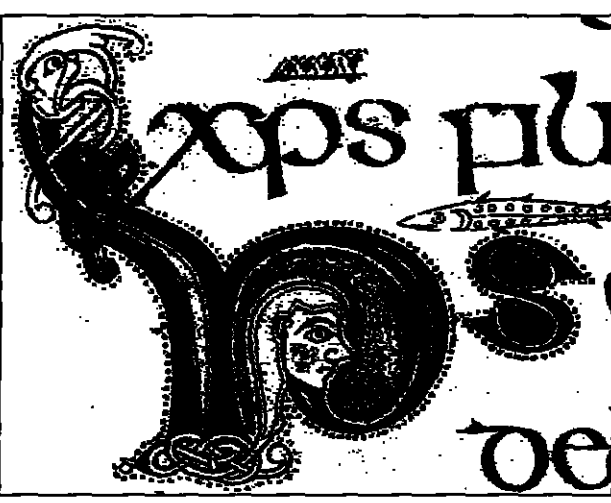
We all know the tone, or rather the smell, of an Anglo-Irish novel, the whiff of decaying gentry and stables. But for all that has been written on this group, defining them is the very devil. Julian Moynihan's thoughtful book makes a good shot at what made their literature unique: "Anglo-Irish is the writing produced by that ascendant minority in Ireland, largely but not entirely English in point of origin, that tended to be Protestant and overwhelmingly loyal to the English crown."

It is possible to quibble with this definition. I would have thought that the Anglo-Irish were altogether Protestant — and, indeed, instinctively anti-Catholic — with a single exception: George Moore. As for being largely English, that seems to be a formula designed to bring William Carleton into the scope of the book: an apostate who was born and reared as an Irish Catholic and bequeathed us the most remarkable portrait of pre-Famine Irish society. But it does bring within its scope well-loved and recognisably Anglo-Irish figures: Maria Edgeworth, Somerville and Ross and Elizabeth Bowen, though it excludes, remarkably, the great ballad maker, Tom Moore.

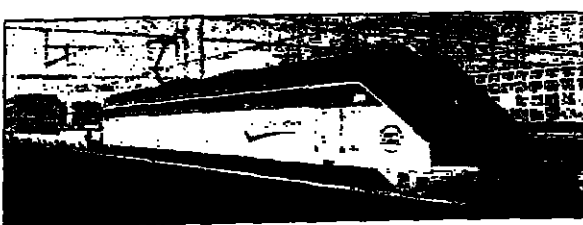
For ease of categorisation, Moynihan starts with the Act of Union in 1800, which effectively excludes those Irish writers who have been appropriated by a British public who saw them as too good not to be English: Sheridan, Swift, Berkeley. But there is another reason why they don't count.

The most striking thing about the fate of the Anglo-Irish was the gentleness of their decline. Indeed, in post-Independence Ireland they were probably the most pampered minority in Europe. A charming, autobiographical book by Annabel Goff, *Walled Gardens*, describes their changing place: "These people, the Anglo-Irish Protestant upper class, were not displaced. The opposite reality: they remained the same but everything around them changed." As epitaphs go, her book is the most pleasing they could wish for.

An older Ireland: Christ with symbolic fish, snake and lion, from *The Book of Kells* (Thames & Hudson, £8.95)



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THE HAUNTING NEW NOVEL FROM THE AUTHOR OF ST AGNES' STAND

Quite a day at the races

THE opportunity to enjoy Royal Ascot in style later this month is being offered by the Four Seasons Hotel in London. For £1,750 for two, the hotel is offering four nights accommodation, rental of a morning suit from Austin Reed, a limousine transfer to and from Ascot, tickets and a picnic hamper. Details: 0171 499 0888.

ROOM SERVICE

today relaunching its frequent guest scheme for business travellers. Called Crown Collection, this rewards regular guests with vouchers which can be redeemed for weekend breaks at any one of 37 Moat House and County Hotels, as well as giving discounts on meals. Information and brochure: 06-45 913914.

COMBINED theatre, sport and concert tickets and overnight accommodation are now being offered by a London discount hotels service. London Hotels Discounted Reservations books customers into available hotels according to category, from budget to four-star, rather than by name and offers lower prices based on late availability. Tickets are provided by the Ticketmaster booking agency. Prices start at £42 per person for accommodation, dinner at a Café Rouge restaurant and tickets for a West End show. Details: 0171 4545000.

BARGAIN OF THE WEEK

THE Peninsula Hotels group is offering special summer rates at its hotels in Hong Kong, Manila and Beijing, including a 20 per cent discount on suites. Details: 0800 181123.

THE Lygon Arms in Broadway, Wrexham, has a one-night Shakespearean package costing £280 per couple for accommodation at the hotel, transfer and tickets to Stratford-upon-Avon to watch the Royal Shakespeare Company and a candle-lit supper on return. Details: 013586 552255.

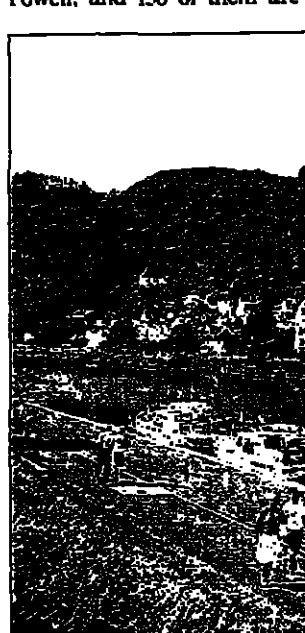
FANS of the television show *Gladiators* can combine a weekend break at any one of seven Birmingham area hotels in the Embassy Leisure Breaks programme, with a ticket to see the contest being recorded at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Embassy, part of Jarvis Hotels, has 7,000 tickets for the show and some board games to give away. Prices start at £30.50 per adult, with £10 extra for children sharing the same room. Dates are from August 12 until September 2. Details: 0345 581811.

QUEENS Moat Houses is

DAVID CHURCHILL

Tourism where Turner trod

GERMAN tourist authorities are hoping for an influx of British travellers following in the footsteps of Turner, after the opening of an exhibition of his German paintings at the Tate Gallery in London.



Taking a stroll along the Mosel at Cochem today...

Turner made a number of tours through Germany between 1817 and 1844, during which he completed hundreds of paintings and drawings. These have been brought together and catalogued by a freelance historian, Cecilia Powell, and 150 of them are being shown free at the Tate until September 10.



...and St Martin's Church, Cochem, as Turner painted it circa 1830

King of England was also King of Hanover.

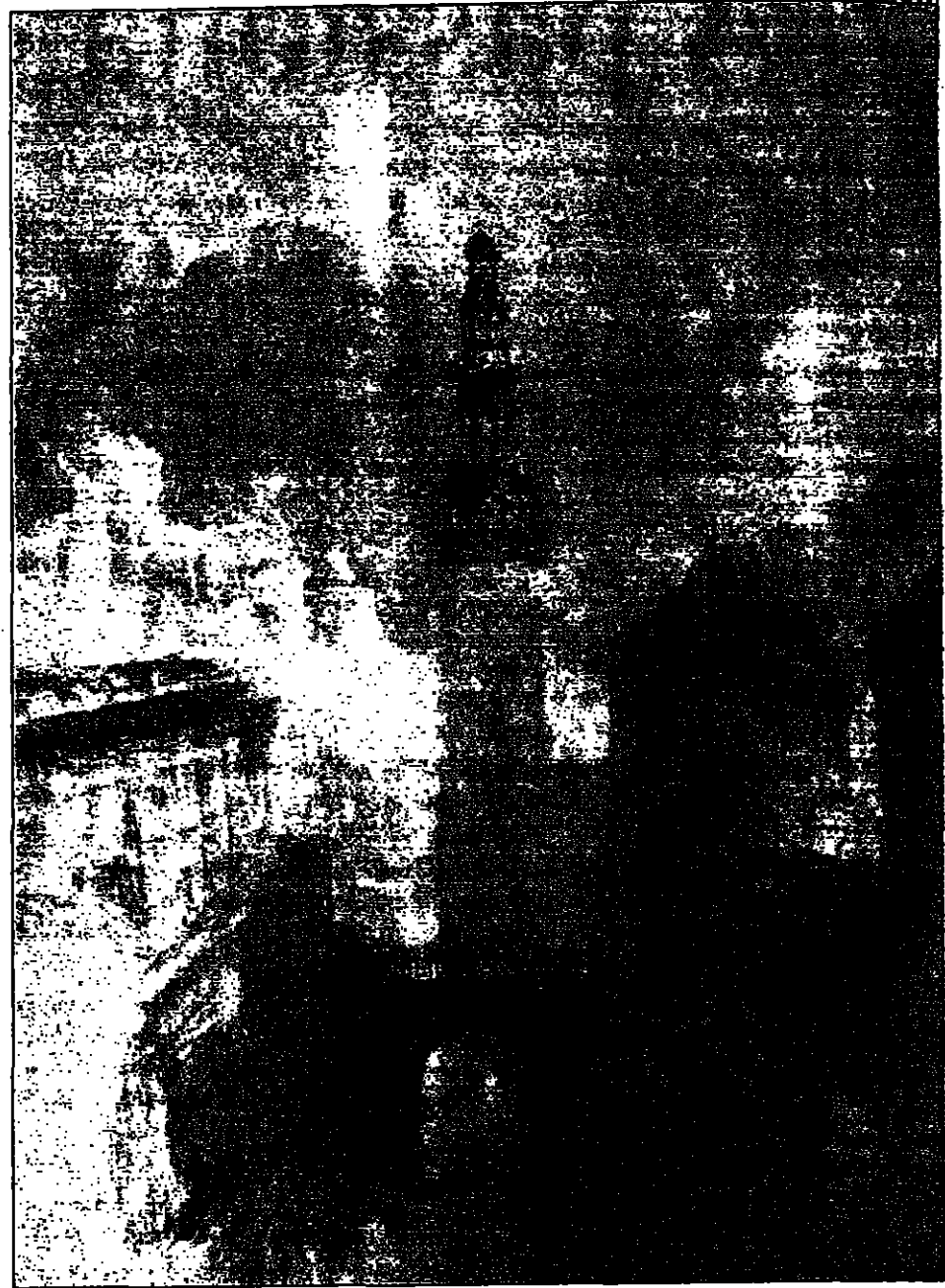
Turner was unusually systematic in his German travels, since he was working on his monumental *Rivers of Europe*. Even when that was completed he continued obsessively to document the upper Rhine and other important central European rivers. Consequently, rivers and lakes bulk large in this show.

The Tate has produced a 255-page catalogue for the exhibition, costing £25, which also contains maps showing the many routes taken by Turner during his tours.

Flights to Cologne start from around £90 return and a German rail pass costs £54 per person for five days or £85 for two people. The railway passes through many of the towns and villages recorded by Turner and there is a plethora of bed and breakfast accommodation available from about £25 a night for a room. Details from the German Travel Centre 0181-429-2900.

Alternatively, organised tours are run by travel companies specialising in the arts, including Martin Randall Travel (0181-742-3355).

A typical baroque and rococo tour in September, including flights to Stuttgart and eight days in southern Germany costs £1,080 and an eight-day Rhineland tour in June costs £980.



...and St Martin's Church, Cochem, as Turner painted it circa 1830

When the world's at your feet, take cover

ing bricks, with the wanderlust client able to choose which sections to adopt.

Cover for a month in Europe, including cancellation, personal accident and medical treatment, costs from £15 per person, with special rates for longer stays. Those travelling for six months pay £54, rising to £108 for a year. For those planning shorter trips, rates start at £10.25 for 17 days in Europe, rising to £24.50 worldwide.

Baggage insurance, which will cover up to £500 worth of trusty rucksack contents, starts from an additional £3 a month, with cover for £200 worth costing £2.50 per month. Mike Escott, Club Direct's managing director, said: "Continental and round-the-world travellers are particularly vulnerable to theft. If you aren't insured, you could find yourself in serious financial difficulty."

Columbus Insurance Services also has specific policies for long-stay

travellers. For £16 a month, travellers can get medical cover worldwide, providing they spend no longer than 23 days in America, where medical costs rise. The service gives personal liability and 24-hour emergency medical cover, including the option of an air ambulance for cases of serious injury. The equivalent fully worldwide package, allowing unlimited travel in North America and Canada, costs £21 a month.

equivalent medical cover for £12 a month. "A lot of people think that because of European agreements they don't need to get medical cover in Europe, but it's well worth it because of bureaucratic practicalities," said Brian Warburton, a director of Columbus.

Again, holidaymakers can add baggage, cancellation and curtailment cover, which brings the cost for European cover to £21 a month, and fully worldwide to £36 per month. "I think people are now much more canny and accept that adding another £200 or so on to the cost of your year abroad or few months away is a fine investment if you consider what the cover provides," Mr Warburton added.

KATHRYN KNIGHT

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Ciampino	£89	Mashon	£79
Faro	£76	Tobos	£79
Greece	£79	Israel	£139
Malaga	£79	Turkey	£89
Nice	£85	Malta	£79

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Before you fly off to the sun there are questions you should ask about the aircraft you will be travelling in, Harvey Elliott writes

Air charter clouds in summer skies

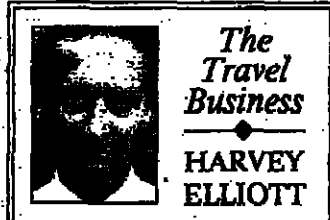
British holidaymakers could unwittingly be flying to the sun this summer on ancient aeroplanes sold years before by British airlines but now back in new colours with foreign crews at the controls.

British charter airlines have invested fortunes in improving their service over the past few years and as a result have created the most modern, non-scheduled airline fleet in the world. Their aircraft, on average, are less than four years old.

Airlines such as Britannia, Monarch, Air UK, Leisure, Air-2000, Airtours and Easair operate aircraft which are almost new

and the food and in-flight service is equal to anything on a scheduled carrier. Perhaps the seats are a bit smaller and the lack of legroom can, especially over long distances, prove irritating. But anyone who flies on a British chartered airline can do so with confidence and comfort.

Except in the peak summer months. This year, once again the charter market is being flooded with seats on old aircraft, many of which are



late last week it advised the Transport Department, which gives licences for these aircraft to operate out of Britain, to turn down a

request for two Peruvian-registered jets to fly from Britain this summer — they were too noisy.

The pressure remains on the authorities to allow more foreign-registered, leased aircraft into Britain, and already more than 500,000 additional seats have been committed by such operators to the British package holiday market for this summer.

Does the ownership of an aircraft matter to the traveller, if its seats can be bought at much lower

prices? The brokers who bring in the aircraft claim, with some force, that they are simply reacting to demand; that the old boy network of established charter airlines is being protectionist and denying competition; and that there are many older aircraft still flying.

Meanwhile, they say, they have spotted a gap in the market, so either compete or keep quiet. But equally there is some power in the argument made by the British charter airlines that their crews

are employed full-time and that they must be trained and kept busy in the winter as well as in the summer.

What is clear, however, is that the traveller is not being given the full facts. Surely the least holidaymakers can expect to be told is exactly which aircraft they are going to be flying in, who owns it, what nationality the crew is, how old it is and what insurance cover they will have if anything goes wrong?

After all, everyone takes immense care in choosing their holiday hotel. Why not the aircraft that will fly them there?

Move to end 'scandal' of low compensation

By TONY DAVIS

NEW moves are being made by British and other European Governments to end what lawyers and MPs have termed the "scandalously low levels of compensation" paid to the relatives of aircraft victims.

British aviation officials will meet their European counterparts and representatives of international airlines later this month to hammer out a deal which could provide relatives with a maximum of £100,000 instead of the £13,633.40 now available.

They are also demanding that accident victims or their next of kin should receive immediate hardship payments and that new compensation levels must be revised every three years.

Critics of the present compensation limits, based on the 1929 Convention, have argued that they provide a double blow for relatives, who not only lose loved ones but are left with insufficient funds to look after the families left behind.

Steven Norris, the transport minister, has given his backing to the new moves and

promised that his department will do all it can to update the international conventions governing the levels of available compensation "to ensure that families in future tragedies are spared similar distress."

The initiative has been welcomed by Mary Sasse, whose husband, Dominic, died in the last big crash to affect a large number of Britons, in Nepal two-and-a-half years ago. "The negotiations are very good news but they are not before time," she said.

Mrs Sasse was left to bring up two young children and to run a small family business after the accident, in which a Pakistani Airbus crashed near Kathmandu, killing all the passengers and crew. The business needs more money invested than the £13,633.40 and she has had to sell the house and the car. "I have had to live on credit," she said. "I have had to live on the kindness of friends and family."

Pakistan International Airlines flight, the most obvious place to sue would be Pakistan or Nepal. The chances of success there would be slim and action very costly.

Mrs Sasse must rely, therefore, on the Warsaw Convention, updated by The Hague protocol. Nigel Taylor, her solicitor and an expert on personal injury law, said: "The convention is now more than 65 years old and it is time it was pensioned off. If nations were making an accord like this today, they would not set a limit at all."

If it were suggested that a bus or coach company should be permitted to limit their financial liability to £13,000 when they kill people, there would be a public outcry.

Higher compensation limits of £50,000 were recommended by the 1975 Montreal Convention but so few states ratified it that the convention has never come into force. Under a recent US agreement, all airlines registered in the United States, and those flying there, have agreed to a \$75,000 (£47,500) limit.

British officials are hoping that a similar accord can be reached in Europe but with maximum levels closer to £100,000. They also want people seriously injured in air accidents, or relatives of those killed, to receive immediate hardship payments of between 5 and 10 per cent of the new maximum compensation level.

Nigel Waterson, the Tory MP, who has called for improvements to the "patchwork of outdated and inadequate compensation", welcomed the moves but added: "The British Government's heart is in the right place but I fear that anything requiring agreement in Europe will move at a snail's pace."



Snow in Florida? The "Summit Plummer" at Mount Gushmore, Blizzard Beach

A British blizzard

BRITISH holidaymakers are "swamping" Blizzard Beach, the new theme park at Disney's Orlando, Florida resort (David Churchill writes).

The 66-acre water park is popular with British visitors because it is close to the recently opened All Star

Sports and Music Hotels, which have a total of 4,000 rooms, each sleeping up to four people.

"Because many Britons stay at these hotels, they tend to hit Blizzard Beach first," a Disney spokesman said. "There are more British

guests at the moment than any other nationality."

Blizzard Beach is themed around the idea that a freak snow storm has hit Florida — where temperatures reach around 90F in the summer — and a ski resort has been built as a result.

How green are your holidays?

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

ATTEMPTS are being made this week to prevent the travel industry from destroying 400,000 trees and wasting £35 million a year in producing unused holiday brochures.

Every year, 120 million glossy brochures are produced, of which 38 million are thrown away. They cannot be recycled because of the inks used in the printing process.

By October all this should change thanks to Dick Sisman, an environmentalist who wants "greener" tourism.

Mr Sisman, 50, chairman of Green Flag International, a non-profit-making organisation set up four years ago to promote conservation in tourism, has persuaded independent tour operators that being "green" can save them money.

"Good environmental practice need not be at the expense of good business," he said. "The cost of paper has gone up 15 per cent in the last three months and this plan is an immediate way to cut costs. We are not a pressure group — we try to be helpful."

The problem of wasted brochures is just one of the projects on which Green Flag offers advice. Its 70 members pay an annual subscription in return for advice on "sustainable tourism" — an industry buzz-word to describe tourism which benefits, and even enhances, holiday destinations rather than destroying them.

Hotels are advised on saving water and electricity; for example not changing room towels every day and encouraging guests to switch off lights when leaving rooms.

The campaign is an attempt to stop other countries suffer-

ing unfettered development on the scale seen along the Spanish coast in the 1970s, when quiet fishing villages turned into huge, unmanageable — and ultimately unpopular — resorts, dominated by snack bars and high-rise flats.

British travellers may worry about the damage that tourism causes to the environment, but recent surveys have shown one in ten of them nevertheless prefers to holiday in remote and unspoiled areas.

"Tourism has made a lot of mistakes that we would not like to be repeated," Mr Sisman said. "We have been successful in advising operators and governments on green tourism in Malta, Jersey and Portugal, but sometimes I

feel I am fighting against public apathy. Tour operators do respond to public pressure, but we could do with a little more of it in Britain."

He advocates using small, privately-run guesthouses and hotels, shops and public transport, and employing local people as guides.

"Holiday planning should include the consideration of the effect of your visit, especially in the world's most beautiful places. Look at the environmental content of brochures. Try to travel with a company that shows it has taken account of environmental issues in putting together holiday programmes."

He is now setting up a database of guesthouses, hotels, tours, public transport and environmentally-friendly projects on which operators can draw. "We already have 250 businesses on our books, and hope to have 2,000 by the end of the year," he said.



Sisman: "helpful"



Widowed: Mary Sasse with Joshua, seven, and Lydia, 12

BA boosts seat comfort

A NEW range of seats, designed to be so comfortable that business class travellers will forget how much they are paying for the privilege of flying in a better class compartment, are to be fitted into the latest British Airways jets, Harvey Elliott writes.

As passengers get taller, fatter and heavier, so the need to look after their comfort has increased. Now, after two years of research, BA believes it has found the perfect business class seat design.

BA has also decided to provide business class pas-

sengers with 55in of leg room, 15in more than at present, to compete with airlines, such as Virgin and Continental, which have abolished first class and turned business class into the equivalent of the old first class.

The new BA seat is totally flexible to provide maximum comfort for whatever shape, size or weight of passenger who sits in it.

It has an extendable base which adjusts to match the length of the occupant's thigh; an adaptable foot-rest controlled by pressure from

the feet; a self-adjustable air bag to support the lower back; "ears" which fold down to support a sleeping head; a moveable light in the armrest to complement the overhead reading light; additional storage space; and an extra seat pocket below the personal entertainment system. The arm rests are rounded, push buttons replace levers to control its position, and it is covered in a material which makes the foam feel soft while providing firm support.

The seats cost about £3,000 each and were designed in

conjunction with ICE Ergonomics of Loughborough University and Jones Garrard of Leicester. They were made by Burns Aerospace of North Carolina.

Robbie Baird, BA's general manager of product development, said: "An aircraft seat has to combine the roles of an armchair, a bed and a seat in a restaurant, cinema and office. This new seat meets all the needs of our customers."

The seat will be installed in the new Boeing 777 fleet, which will be delivered to BA later this year.

Price war slashes Euro fares

BRITISH Airways has sparked a price war with the Eurostar rail service to Paris and Brussels by slashing air fares to both cities. The airline yesterday announced £59 fares to Paris and Brussels in its latest wave of "World Offers".

The fares, for travel in June, undercut the lowest existing airfare by £16. Travel agents were yesterday quoting £75 for BA, British Midland or Air France. The BA price is also 30 per cent lower than Eurostar's cheapest return.

The rail service quotes Paris for £84 or Brussels at £79. "I don't think we have ever had a £59 fare to Paris, certainly not for many, many moons," said Debbie Cope, senior sales consultant at Major Travel in London, one of BA's specialist travel agents. "Why BA has brought them down that low I don't know."

But BA and other airlines are under challenge from Eurostar. Last year an estimated three million people flew between London and Paris and 1.6 million to Brussels. Eurostar started the operation on November 14 last year and on May 23 passed the one million passenger mark.

A Eurostar spokesman yesterday declined to comment on the BA fare initiative, but a BA spokesman denied its prices were in response to Eurostar. "World Offers" also offers price cuts to other destinations: Barcelona and Berlin are quoted at £99, Naples and Rome for £129 and Athens for £139.

Lure of currency

CURRENCY fluctuations are persuading British holidaymakers to go to countries where their pounds go further (writes Steve Keenan).

America, Turkey and Italy have become more attractive, but France, Greece and Spain have lost business.

A year ago, travellers received 8.2 French francs to the £1. Now the figure is FF77.8, a difference of nearly £30 when changing £500 cash. The change is reflected in recent holiday bookings — down 7 per cent down on 1994.

Spain and Greece have also lost business. Bookings to the end of April showed Spain's share of the UK market slipping from 44 to 42 per cent, and Greece from 15 to 14 per cent, says Britain's biggest travel agent, Lunn Poly.

The pound has gained strength in America (Florida, in particular) and Turkey. Turkey has nearly doubled its market share of the UK market to 7 per cent. America is up 5 per cent.

But the swings in favourable currency rates have to be balanced against the cost of meals and services abroad. So while £1 buys 60 per cent more Turkish lira than it did last

WHAT YOU GET — COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

CURRENCY	£500 worth of currency May 30, 1994	£500 worth of currency May 30, 1995	Difference in £ on £500 cost of living % over year	Increase in %
US dollar	797.00	794.50	+£2.50	3.1
Greek drachma	177,000	178,950	-£1,950	9.8
French franc	4,116	3,682	£434	1.6
Turkish lira	22,305,000	32,920,000	-£10,615	185.5
Cypriot pound	361	347	£14	4.7
Spanish peseta	99,000	98,100	£900	5.2
Portuguese escudo	125,000	115,000	£10,000	5.2
Italian lire	1,725,000	1,300,000	£425,000	5.2
Australian dollar	1,000.00	1,085.00	£85	38.17
Indian rupee	46.50	46.80	£0.30	43.17
South African rand	5.88	5.50	£0.38	34.55

*Source: Thomas Cook

year, the cost of buying meals and services has doubled.

The pound is unlikely to drop further against Euro-

pean currencies, says David Gladwin, of Thomas Cook. By waiting, holidaymakers to France may even benefit.

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STEVE KEENAN

Worcestershire out to break duck

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON they lost four in succession at the start of a season was 68 son is Chris Lewis, who wants away from Trent Bridge. Not The old joke about York-

Benjamin told to calm down by his captain

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

[illegible]

**FROM DAVID MILLER
IN PORT ELIZABETH**

Rowlands, of Canada, goes in low to stop a determined charge by Ofahengaue, who has Tabua in support. Photograph: Mark Baker

CANADA: S Stewart (UBCOB), W Stanley (UBC), C Stewart (Western Province), S Gray (Kais), D Lougheed (Toronto Western), G Rees (Newport, captain), J Gray (UBCOB); E Evans (UBCOB), K Snoborda (Alex Ward), R Snow (Dogs), J Hutchison (UBCOB), M James (Burnaby Lake), G Rowlands (Velox Vallisians), G MacIntosh (Etanina Lions), A Chismon (Ottawa Irish). Rowlands replaced by G Ennis (Kais 70).

Referee: P Robin (France).

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
IN BLOEMFONTEIN

[illegible]**BY OUR SPORTS STAFF**

The Samoan World Cup success follows recent heavy defeats to Australia and South Africa. Kellett, however, attributed those reverses to Western Samoa's limited experience in international rugby. "It was the first time that we had played South Africa and only the second against Australia," he said.

Proposals have been made to enforce quotas for black players on junior Springbok teams in the future, with a commitment that at least seven of the Under-21 side to visit Argentina in July will be black players.

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Pain speaking and some fancy mind games

Goodness, was it really only a week ago that I complained that there was nothing to watch on a Wednesday night? Well, someone else clearly thought so too. Just as I was about to give up waiting, three new BBC series came along at once.

Undoubtedly the most heavyweight of these is Sir John Harvey-Jones, which is probably as well because if the former chairman of ICI gets through Troubleshot Returns (BBC 2) without someone smacking him in the gob I shall be most surprised. Sir John may be 70 but age is not exactly withering him — nor, thank goodness, doing very much for his tact.

"I'm really bloody angry," thundered Harvey-Jones, his hallmark hair-do collapsing into a sweaty mass of proto-dreadlocks. But this was no ordinary bad hair day, this was the first step on a sporadically sentimental journey around the India of his youth. "Everything is

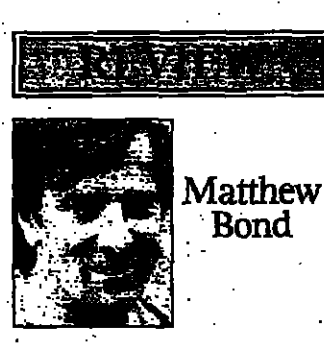
wrong with it," bellowed the great man, as he surveyed the dark, satanic Bombay textile mill that had once been owned by his father-in-law but which was now operated by S. Kumar, producer of "premier suitings". "It's old fashioned, it's dangerous, it's an insult to really skilled workers." As Harvey-Jones wheeled out the familiar solution ("sell up and start again") the factory's Harvard-trained management were not looking happy.

He was at it again in Dhar, where the management of Hindustan Motors made the fatal mistake of rolling out the red carpet. As regulars will know, the first rule of Troubleshot is — the more effusive the welcome, the more painful the knee to the corporate groin. "Built by Indian craftsmen. I take it?" yelled Harvey-Jones, as he bounced down a test-track in the latest incarnation of the Morris Oxford, cheerily

oblivious to the possibility that anyone on the sub-continent might take pride in their work.

But — oh joy, oh rapture — Indian management fought back — after a brief pause for sentiment. In beautiful Urdu, Harvey-Jones chatted nostalgically with the 76th Maharana, whose father had been installed with "traditional, stiff upper lip British values" by Harvey-Jones's father. This was genuinely moving, particularly when a couple of old retainers were produced who had actually known Harvey-Jones's father. "Did he ever mention me?" asked the son, who only saw his father twice again after he was sent back to Britain to school. The elderly cricket coach thought about it. "No — I don't think he did."

Harvey-Jones attempted to cheer himself up with a bit of corporate interference in Urdu — his hotel empire. Now, about



Matthew Bond

financial controls... "I'm well aware of our shortcoming on that front," replied the Maharana firmly, Harvey-Jones tried again — how about lower overheads? "I'm not prepared to do that." Not even a few job losses, say four or five hundred? The Maharana was gloriously adamant. "If it costs a bit, so what." Sounds just like Harvey-Jones returned chas-

tened but certainly no more tactful to Bombay, where — even to his surprise — the management of the textile mill had already decided to follow his advice to sell up. "Without wishing to be rude," our man began — and then promptly was: "such speed of reaction is not a very Indian reaction." The senior bod from S. Kumar was politely having none of that. "I dare say, Sir John, such speed of reaction is not a very British quality either." Great stuff and great television.

By contrast, Monkhouse's Memory Masters (BBC 1) is extraordinary television. Where else will you find a quiz show where the questions include "What is drink-it-plus glasses?" and the answer is "Submarine"? The first surreal game show has arrived. As Bob Monkhouse welcomed us, just about the only things that were familiar were the jokes. The show was tailor-made for mental athletes — "because the only

logging we do is of our memories". Ah, but what memories? To take part, contestants have to spend two weeks on a course in memory techniques, where they learn to memorise things through "bizarre and exaggerated pictures". The technique is called "pegging" and resulted in a lot of arm-waving among the contestants and the strangest catch phrase in Monkhouse's long career. It will be some time, I suspect, before "Are you ready to peg?" reaches the status of "Bernie the bull".

Assuming there is no fakery, the technique is impressive. Two of last night's contestants (both young and both women) could remember just about everything — from who won what at a school prize-giving to the history of the space shuttle. That said, questions such as "What was the payload of the 46th shuttle mission?" are hardly conducive

to our playing along at home. Still, a spot of pegging would definitely have come in handy for the first episode of Castles (BBC 1), which made a confident but complicated start to its 24-part run. Last night was meet the very extended family time. No trouble with the matriarch (Anna Cropper) and patriarch (Tony Doyle) — they spent enough time arguing about his alleged affair (of course he was having one — it's Tony Doyle, for goodness sake) to stick in anyone's memory. But among the junior Castles, linking spouse to partner and sibling to parent proved more difficult. The director helpfully posted family groups at a sixth birthday party. "No mother, this is just your children — you, Dad and the four of us." I was going to freeze frame it for future reference — until I discovered that from next week Castles moves to Tuesdays and Thursdays. Are you ready to peg, Lynne?

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (2307)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (0574739)
- 9.05 Conan the Adventurer (1) (3612197) 9.25 Ashtorh. Off-bat leisure pursuits (1). (Ceefax) (s) (1736776)
- 9.55 Bird in the Nest (s) (245994)
- 10.05 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2309994) 10.10 Playdays (1) (s) (245642)
- 10.30 Good Morning Summer. Weekday magazine series. Includes News, regional news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (2106357)
- 12.25 Going for Gold. Another round of the general knowledge quiz, presented by the handsome Henry Kelly (s) (4072468) 12.50 Regional News and weather (6458265)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (63975) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (3518544)
- 1.50 Howards' Way. Drama serial set among South Coast yachting folk (1). (Ceefax) (s) (2456282) 2.45 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles starring Sean Patrick Flanery. (Ceefax) (s) (2473772)
- 3.30 Cartoon (1302420) 3.45 Bird in the Nest (s) (6831046)
- 3.50 Plingu (8711197) 3.55 Why Did the Chicken? (s) (1321555) 4.10 Speed Racer. (Ceefax) (4342807) 4.35 The Ant and Dec Show. (Ceefax) (s) (2445368)
- 5.00 Newsround. (Ceefax) (2354623) 5.05 Escape from Jupiter. (Ceefax) (s) (7489488)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (s) (425401)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (94)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (46)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (6739)
- 7.30 EastEnders (1) (s) (30)
- 8.00 Wildlife on One: Lake of the Flies. The mosquito-like flies of Africa's Lake Victoria. (Ceefax) (s) (48455)
- 8.30 Paul Merton's Life of Comedy. The comedian continues his nostalgic trip through 40 years of television comedy. (Ceefax) (s) (4994)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (504)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly. Sit-com starring Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey. (Ceefax) (s) (40623)



Caroline Beale's eight months of hell (10.00pm)

- 10.00 **CRIME** Inside Story: Caroline's Baby. (Ceefax) (s) (535584) Northern Ireland. Spoofed. 10.30 Inside Story. 11.20 Question Time. 12.25am Bird in the Nest 12.35-2.10 Film: Brothers in Arms
- 10.50 Question Time presented by David Dimbleby in London. The panel is composed of Anne Leslie and MPs Nicholas Soames, Robin Cook and Mervyn Campbell (Ceefax) (233178)
- 11.50 Bird in the Nest. Last of the day's birdwatching reports (s) (532772)
- 12.00 FILM: Panchito Villa (1972) starring Telly Savalas and Clint Walker. Western adventure about the Mexican leader who swayed American territory. Directed by Eugene Martin (7888)
- 1.30am Weather (647737)

BBC2

- 6.20 Open University (Ceefax and signing) (8111807)
- 8.15 FILM: Man and His Mate (1940, b/w) starring Victor Mature and Carole Landis. A prehistoric man, banished from his tribe, finds a new settlement and romance. Directed by Hal Roach Jr (3833159)
- 9.35 FILM: Keep 'Em Flying (1941, b/w) An Abbott and Costello comedy directed by Arthur Lubin (2745536)
- 10.55 Star Trek: Animation (2191420)
- 11.20 FILM: Dot and the Koala (1983). Australian children's adventure (3760771)
- 12.30 Working Lunch (24001)
- 1.00 Cold Yearning. Austrian film-makers leave an isolated Yukon mining settlement for an expedition through Jack London territory (3320523) 1.50 Town Portraits Lincoln (1) (2250738)
- 2.00 The Little Polar Bear (1) (73678420) 2.05 Hairy Jeremy (s) (73677781) 2.10 The Hollywood Collection. Grace Kelly (s) (5972130)
- 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather. Endangered World — A Kenyan Trilogy (9050248) 3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (8701701)
- 4.30 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (59)
- 4.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (1)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. (Ceefax) (s) (1062178)
- 5.40 The Long Goodbye. Armistead Maupin and his lover Tony Anderson, who is HIV positive, talk about each other and of a homosexual community struck down by Aids (s) (430488)
- 6.00 Quantum Leap (1). (Ceefax) (s) (338975)
- 6.45 Tex Avery. A classic cartoon (222130)
- 7.00 The Mrs Merton Show (1). (Ceefax) (s) (7081)



Jack Black sells positive thinking (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **CRIME** The Business: Black Magic (Ceefax) (s) (72)
- 8.00 Play It Again (1) (s) (3401)
- 8.30 More Rhodes around Britain. Chef Gary Rhodes visits the Orkney Islands. (Ceefax) (s) (2538)
- 9.00 FILM: Absolute Strangers (1991) starring Henry Winkler and Karl Malden. A drama about a loving husband who is faced with the prospect of agreeing to his comatose wife having an abortion in order to save her life. Directed by Gilbert Cates (4875)
- 10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (501976)
- 11.15 Late Review with Mark Lawson (1) (498739)
- 11.55 Weather (843813) 12.00 Open View (s) (8653043)
- 12.05am-12.35 Electronics. Global Firms — Shrinking Worlds (912918)
- 5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (1) (43376)

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Inside Story: Caroline's Baby

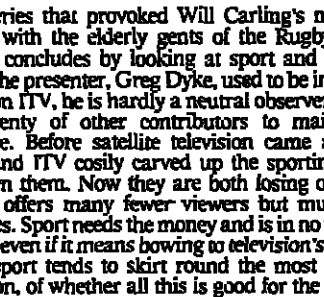
BBC1, 10.00pm
The ordeal of Caroline Beale has been so extensively covered on the screen and in print that anybody who has followed the story will find little that is new in Nic's documentary. It still deserves rewatching, if only for the light it sheds on the American legal system. Beale is the young woman from Essex who has been accused in New York of murdering her baby. She maintains that the child was stillborn. Gaunt, fearful and confused, Beale speaks from the prison cell where she spent eight months before being released on bail. Some compassion seems in order, but Marjory Flaherty, the District Attorney, will have none of it. Her determination to treat Beale like any other criminal is the most chilling aspect of the case.

The Business: Black Magic

BBC2, 7.30pm
Jack Black comes from Glasgow and sounds unassuming. Billy Connolly, Black's business partner, is not content with business itself. For the sum of £200 per head, plus VAT, he lectures company managers on the power of positive thinking. He also issues tapes, which business folk can play on their car radios. What we all want to know is whether Black's recipe works. He says the proof is that companies invite him back. Sir John Harvey-Jones is convinced that Black is genuine, but feels he is not offering anything new. Some find him inspirational, others sceptical. Black's methods are put to the test when he tries to galvanise the Montrose football team before a cup-tie with Hibernian. I will not spoil things by revealing the final score.

Fair Game: All Bored In

Channel 4, 8.00pm
The series that provoked Will Carling's memorable brush with the elderly gent of the Rugby Football Union concludes by looking at sport and television. Since the presenter, Greg Dyke, used to be in charge of sport on ITV, he is hardly a neutral observer but there are plenty of other contributors to maintain the balance. Before satellite television came along, the BBC and ITV costly carved up the sporting fixtures between them. Now they are both losing out to Sky, which offers many fewer viewers a much bigger cheque. Sport needs the money and is in no position to argue, even if it means bowing to television's demands. The report tends to skirt round the most important question, of whether all this is good for the viewer.



Toddler Jack Malik causes concern (7.30pm)

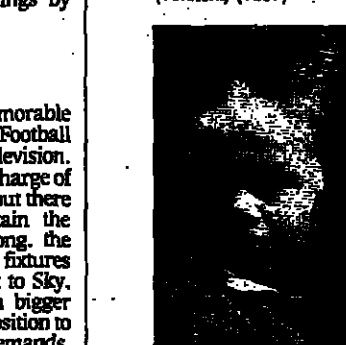


Culture shocks for the Lapiro family (C4, 9.30pm)

True Stories: The Lapiro Go West
Channel 4, 9.30pm
In 1981 Ilya Lapiro, his wife Isabella and their nine-year-old son, Kelcha, emigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States. Ten years later they returned, now American citizens and with quite a tale to tell. Theirs is Jean-Luc's film, which was a Prix Italia, the story is shared with us. The family was lured across the Atlantic by the promise of freedom and a higher standard of life. Taking their first American meal in McDonald's, they are amazed to see disposable cups and crockery. Other culture shocks follow, though your Kelcha does his best to ride things by calling himself Ken. For his parents, the attempt to assimilate proves more difficult. Peter Wayne

CARTON

- 6.00am GMTV (787517)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (2034684) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2230082)
- 10.00 Step by Step (1) (s) (59420)
- 10.30 This Morning presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (8135446) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1022420)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2584913)
- 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (2589804) 1.25 Emmerdale (1). (Teletext) (2543804) 1.55 A Country Practice (1) (3517304) 2.20 Vanessa: Forever an Adultress (Teletext) (s) (1242387)
- 2.50 Gardeners' Diary: The Chelsea Flower Show. John Ravenscroft tours the gardens and compares this year's show with the first one in 1912 (8169739)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (3962710) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (3961081)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (1) (1313536) 3.40 Wizards (1) (s) (3481325) 3.50 Garfield and Friends (1) (2784361)
- 4.20 Ant and Dec's Night Out (1) (s) (4333188) 4.45 Ant and Dec's Night Out (1) (s) (4333188)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Barnes (Teletext) (7487807)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (789623)
- 5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (803833)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1). (Teletext) (62)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (2)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Bill and Luke fall out over Tina and Kathy reaches the end of her tether with Kim. (Teletext) (1807)



Toddler Jack Malik causes concern (7.30pm)

- 7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville looks at a condition which is affecting one in 20 children under five in Britain, in which eating habits threaten physical and mental development (s) (6)
- 8.00 The Bill: Peeling Gully. A pregnant woman is mugged. (Teletext) (5305)
- 8.30 Heartbeat. Nostalgic drama starring Nick Berry and Niamh Cusack. A flasher is sighted on the moors (1). (Teletext) (11352)
- 9.30 Animal Defenders. Bears. In the last of the series, an investigator goes undercover to expose the Chinese bear farms. (Teletext) (s) (35791)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (91820)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (264062)
- 10.40 The Frost Programme. Sir David Frost is joined by Sir David Attenborough. Plus a discussion on the rights of Britain's transsexuals (s) (251333)
- 11.40 Carlton Sport - World League of American Football (78823)
- 12.15am Alien Nation (s) (573555)
- 1.15 Shift (508288)
- 2.05 The Beat (1) (s) (721753)
- 3.00 The Affair Show (1) (s) (5874840)
- 3.50 Profile featuring Simple Minds and Gloria Estefan (1) (s) (1935057)
- 4.10 The Little Picture Show (1) (1330024)
- 5.00 Vanessa (1). (Teletext) (s) (66604)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (30802) Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 The Adventures Of T-Rex (1) (9211401)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (42046)
- 9.00 Little Wizards (1) (24197) 9.30 California Dreams. Comedy drama series (2329739)
- 9.55 Batman. The hero of Gotham City does battle with Mr Freeze (882604) 10.20 Monk and Mindy. American domestic comedy starring Pam Dawber and Robin Williams (1) (2259157)
- 10.50 Kelly (1) (3586604) 11.20 Pugwallow's Summer (1) (133222) 11.50 Terrors. Classic cartoon series (4770449)
- 12.00 House to House. Tanya Silem looks at British involvement in the Bosnia crisis following yesterday's emergency Commons debate (41343)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early learning series. The guests are Tabe (1) (80894) 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz (1) (s) (6430355)
- 1.55 Pete Smith Specialties. Two shorts — Fishing Feels and Have You Ever Wondered? (3618094)
- 2.15 FILM: Roseanna McCoy (1949, b/w) starring Farley Granger and Joan Evans. A reworking of the Roseanna and Julia story, about the loving offspring of leading hillbilly folk. Directed by Irving Raskin (897448)
- 4.00 Jimmy's. Another visit to St James's Hospital. Leads (1) (5)
- 4.30 Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (9)
- 5.00 Risk Lake. The guests are women who claim that when men are assertive they are called tough but when females are similarly assertive they are called bitches. (Teletext) (283352)
- 5.45 Terrors featuring Deputy Dug (786536)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show. Domestic comedy (1). (Teletext) (84)
- 6.30 Saved By The Bell: Wedding In Las Vegas. American comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (4)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext). Includes weather at 7.30 (28284)
- 7.55 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox. (Teletext) (58772)
- 8.00 **CRIME** Fair Game: All Bored In. (Teletext) (s) (3197)
- 8.30 The Crystal Maze. Another team of contestants tackle the four zones under the guidance of Edward Tudor-Pole. (Teletext) (s) (19934)
- 9.30 **CRIME** True Stories: The Lapiro Go West (Teletext) (46188)

CHANNEL 4

- 11.15 FILM: Laura (1944, b/w) starring Dana Andrews as a cynical detective investigating the supposed murder of a beautiful woman. With Clifton Webb, Vincent Price and Judith Anderson. Directed by Otto Preminger and Rouben Mamoulian (867888)
- 12.00am Dispatches. A repeat of last night's programme. (Teletext) (372005)
- 1.40 FILM: Isaac Littlefeathers (1984) starring Lou Jacobi. A made-for-television drama about a teenager with a half-Indian heritage who leads the defence of neighbourhood children against the local bullies at the same time trying to understand the possibility of his Jewish roots. Directed by Les Rose (474463). Ends at 3.20



Gene Tierney and Vincent Price (11.15pm)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (2589804) 1.25 Home and Away (2589804) 1.55 The Young Doctors (3517304) 2.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 2.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 3.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 3.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 4.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 4.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 5.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 5.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 6.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 6.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 7.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 7.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 8.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 8.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 9.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 9.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 10.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 10.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 11.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 11.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 12.20 The Young Doctors (3517304) 12.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 1.30 The Young Doctors (3517304) 1.40 The Young Doctors (3517304) 1.50 The Young Doctors (3517304) 2.00 The Young Doctors (3517304) 2.10 The Young Doctors 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Grand slam winners make progress but struggle for form

England missing killer instinct

England 27
Italy 20FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

THERE are high roads and low roads to the knockout stages of rugby union's World Cup and England are taking the low road. Victory at King's Park here last night over a committed Italian XV ensured their presence in the quarter-finals but if they are pacing themselves, they are doing so at a snail's pace.

If it is any comfort, the second round of pool matches has proved awkward for other pre-tournament favourites and England may be entitled to feel that their pool B game — which takes them forward to a meeting on Sunday with



Australia struggle 44
Powerful Ireland 44
Clement Freud 44

the pool's other unbeaten side, Western Samoa — was no different.

But it will be a relief to all if Dean Richards is able to return at the weekend. In conditions where control of the ball at close quarters was a priority, the injured Leicester No 8 remains a looming presence on the sidelines.

"It was a win and a clear improvement," Jack Rowell, the England manager, said, "but England lack the killer instinct. We are on an upward curve but only the lower part. We are a couple of strides behind the grand-slam performance."

That a slight gloss was placed on the scoreboard by Massimo Cutilita's injury-time try should not conceal the substantial improvement in Italian rugby since the only previous meeting between the



Tony Underwood, who scored England's opening World Cup try yesterday, pierces the Italian line with Clarke and Back, left, in support

countries, in the 1991 World Cup. They contested every phase, notably the lineout where England hoped for an advantage, and twice erupted through the midfield to threaten the England line.

England's game flickered fitfully but found no substantial shape. In heavy rain during the first half they expanded the game somewhat more optimistically than either recent events or the wet ball suggested they should. But the first score, by Tony Underwood, buoyed morale: it

came against the run of play but was well contrived nonetheless.

Francescato knocked on in England's 22 and Rodber and Rowntree drove upfield before Bracken set the backs in motion: Andrew and de Glanville gave the younger Underwood a clear run to the line from halfway and Andrew's first of five successful penalty attempts gave England an early ten-point advantage.

Yet they could not force it home. The Italian defence pushed their back movements sideways and though de Glanville occasionally cut the advantage line, his back row could not make the desired inroads. However, a lead of 10-3 and a declining wind offered the prospect of a good second half until Catt missed touch, and compounded the error by letting Tronconi's high kick

bounce before making the catch. His clearance was charged down by the elusive Vaccari who ran on to collect the bounce and score. Dominguez's conversion reducing the lead to six points.

England's problem is that they do not lack possession but they do lack invention and the change of direction which so distinguishes so-called lesser teams — such as the Samoans or, indeed, the Japanese. Thus

Back, rather than using his undoubted running and handling skills, was gathered into a tying-up operation: the newer selections the most successful Rowntree was probably Rowntree at loose-head prop, who held his ground at the set piece and supported well in the loose, while Bracken will have been delighted to have received his manager's approval.

A combined drive by the

right forwards, after Bayfield won a lineout eight metres from the Italian line, paved the way for England's second try and Rory Underwood's 43rd for his country. Yet a string of mistakes, which incurred the wrath of Stephen Hilditch, effectively prevented England from building on that advantage.

Four years ago the Italians were heavily penalised; now the tally was virtually even but the difference was that Italy defended within kicking range. England did not. Thus Andrew was able to add two further penalties to his three in the first half, against only one by Dominguez. Yet nobody could deny Italy their consolation, two minutes into injury-time: Troiani had gone close before a well-conceived back row drive took Italy within five metres and Cutilita was shunted across the line.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

SCORERS: England: Tries: T Underwood, R Underwood, Conversion: Dominguez (2). Penalty goals: Dominguez (2). Italy: Tries: Vaccari, Cutilita. Conversion: Dominguez (2). Penalty goals: Dominguez (2).

ITALY: L. Troiani (L'Aquila); P. Vaccari (Milan); I. Francescato (Treviso); S. Bordon (Rovigo); M. Gerosa (Pescara); D. Dominguez (Milan); A. Tronconi (Milan); Massimo Cutilita (Milan, captain); C. Orlandi (Pescara); P. Propertzi (Carrù); A. Sforza (San Dorso); P. Pedroni (Milan); M. Giaccheri (Treviso); O. Arancia (Catania); J. Gardner (Rome). Referee: S. R. Hilditch (Ireland).

Scots bring in Shiel to give attacking approach

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN PRETORIA

SCOTLAND have made two changes from the side which beat Tonga for the third and final pool D match against France in Pretoria on Saturday, one which will determine who wins the group and therefore almost certainly avoids New Zealand in the quarter-finals. The incentive could not be greater.

Graham Shiel comes in at inside centre in place of the unfortunate Ian Jardine, whose lack of match practice since his injury counted against him, while Bryan Redpath, Shiel's Melrose colleague, is recalled at scrum half, with Derrick Patterson making way after an indifferent performance against Tonga.

Duncan Paterson, the team manager, said the selected was Scotland's first-choice side and one he was confident could repeat the historic victory achieved in Paris during the five nations' championship by winning at Loftus Versfeld.

"Even though France are ranked above us in world terms, if we get it right we believe we can win and then go further — although we will have to improve," he said. The Scottish management is not, however, reading too much into the lacklustre opening two performances by France. "They don't fool anybody. Like us, they've been keen to get the first two games out of the way. We are into the real stuff now. It's virtually knockout games from here on in."

Shiel's inclusion suggests Scotland will opt for a more expansive approach against the French than that adopted against the physical Tongans. Paterson, however, refused to comment on tactics.

In the absence of the injured Gregor Townsend, Shiel is being cast in the role of playmaker which may be asking a lot of a man notoriously short of self confidence but whose performances in recent months have shown he has the ability to succeed at this level. His return and that of Redpath cement the Melrose midfield trio together again, and Craig Chalmers, for one, will be delighted.

The continued inclusion of Scott Hastings is as surprising

as it is welcome. Only a week ago the hugely experienced Watsonians player was considered the fourth choice centre, having been the only one not picked in his favoured position during the tour of Spain. Before the Tonga game he said he was glad to be given the opportunity to stake a claim for further international appearances — and having emphatically proved a point, he wins his 56th cap against Tonga.

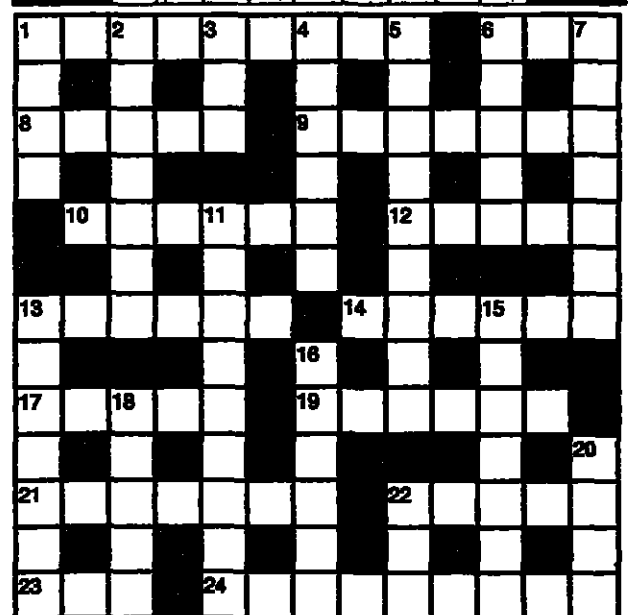
Scotland emerged without serious injury from the often brutal confrontation with Tonga, although several players, among them Peter Wright, are nursing minor knocks, so much so that a planned full scrummaging session against Northern Transvaal has sensibly been put back until this afternoon.

The match did, however,

provide a thorough examination of the fitness of Damian Cronin, whose first full game it was for four months, and Ken Murray, the Heriot's hooker, who has found himself on the sidelines recently due to a virus.

Both players passed with flying colours and are vital to the Scottish cause in a team which shows just the two changes at centre from the one which won at Parc des Princes in February.

In contrast France, whose morale is reportedly at an all time low, have made three changes from that match and six from the side which won convincingly against the Ivory Coast. Worriesingly for Scotland, however, is that the team they will face on Saturday is that which twice beat the All Blacks in New Zealand.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 484

ACROSS

- 1 Capital: college head (9)
- 6 Clothes hung on, bought off it (3)
- 8 Aroma (5)
- 9 Law-and-order breakdown (3,4)
- 10 Gentle walk (6)
- 12 Ward off (5)
- 13 Fade; plunge (veg) in boiling water (6)
- 14 Spring term (law, Oxford) (6)
- 17 Sing, Alpine fashion (5)
- 19 Beam over door (6)
- 21 The outdoors (4,3)
- 22 Well done! (5)
- 23 Speck, point (3)
- 24 Precision (9)

DOWN

- 1 Thrust (away) (4)
- 2 Resistance to movement (7)
- 3 Whip; pet (3)
- 4 Richardson epistolary novel (6)
- 5 Manager of book collection (9)
- 6 Very prim person (5)
- 7 To a major extent (7)
- 11 Swing to and fro (9)
- 13 Man's young days (7)
- 15 Normal (7)
- 16 Dextology; umbrella fabric (6)
- 18 Resided (5)
- 20 Chief; stud (4)
- 22 Wager (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 483
ACROSS: 1 Felicity 5 Ruth 8 Veronica 9 June 11 Ridge 12 Mandala 13 Dagger 15 Friend 18 Cedilla 19 Quail 21 View 22 Adhesion 23 Lode 24 Presence
DOWN: 1 Fevered 2 Lurid 3 Cinderella 4 To come 6 Utlake 7 Hyena 10 Inrequent 14 Gotsend 16 Dominie 17 Wander 18 Cavi 20 Alien

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Clubs accept Intertoto places

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR have been thrown a European lifeline after deciding to enter the Intertoto Cup, the much-maligned summer competition that offers the prize of a place in the Uefa Cup next season. Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday have also accepted their invitations — or were they told to? — as the pre-tournament negotiations reached a farcical conclusion yesterday.

With the threat of a £150,000 fine hanging over its head if it did not find three entrants, the FA Premier League, which governs the FA Carling Premiership, announced it had struck gold. "All three clubs have made it clear they will be entering the competition in a positive frame of mind," Mike Lee, a Premier

League spokesman, said. What emerged, however, was clearly a last-minute compromise that spared the Premier League, and the Football Association, the embarrassment of having to tell Uefa, the sport's European governing body, that nobody was interested. Wimbledon, for example, are likely to "borrow" players from other clubs and also play away from Selhurst Park, which is having its pitch dug up during the close season.

Tottenham, who missed a Uefa Cup place when they finished seventh in the Premiership, were equally unwilling to compete until they were given certain guarantees. They, too, will mix and match youngsters with fringe first-teamers and are unlikely to play at White Hart Lane.

The Intertoto Cup is the brainchild of Uefa and, not surprisingly, is one that will

generate substantial revenue through television fees. The Premier League clubs agreed to its concept in January, but grew increasingly cool on the idea as the hectic domestic season drew to a close.

England were allocated three of the 60 places, from which the semi-finalists will qualify for the preliminary round of the Uefa Cup in August. However, they face a weary summer schedule with the possibility of criss-crossing Europe during the group matches, which run from June 24 or 25 to July 22 or 23.

Could the sudden late change of heart from Tottenham, Wimbledon and Wednesday have had anything to do with financial help from the Premier League? "I cannot comment on that," Lee said, "but we will ensure they will not be out of pocket."

Gullit sweeps up Chelsea riches

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WITH Jürgen Klinsmann barely back in his beloved Germany, English football secured a highly satisfactory, high-profile replacement yesterday when Ruud Gullit, the former Holland forward, fell for the lure of the FA Carling Premiership. Not with Tottenham Hotspur, where Klinsmann loved them and left them after one year, but across London with Chelsea, the beaten semi-finalists in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Gullit, 32, is also entering the twilight of an illustrious career, and the more cynical observers might suggest that his contribution could be less than wholehearted. Knee injuries have plagued him in recent seasons and, as a final big pay-day beckons, Stamford Bridge is as good a

farewell venue as anywhere in Europe.

That Gullit will be reimbursed substantially is not in question. Though a free agent, after being released by Sampdoria, of Italy, his two-year deal is worth £1.5 million, and he will receive an estimated £15,000 a week. Increased season-ticket sales and the financial assistance of Matt Harding, the wealthy Chelsea director, should cover the costs comfortably.

What clinched the move, however, was Gullit's admiration for Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, and their agreement that Gullit would be used as a sweeper, a position he preferred in his early days. He will, in effect, replace Hoddle, who has retired from playing to concentrate on his managerial duties.

"This is where I want to

play," Gullit, who scored 16 goals in 66 appearances for Holland, said. "I can control the pace of the game from there and I am not afraid of the competitiveness of English football. There are no worries about my fitness. After eight



Gullit no worries

years in Italian football, where I won everything I wanted to, Chelsea have offered me a new and exciting challenge."

Hoddle spoke with Gullit in Italy last Friday before going on holiday to Florida. Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, was left to complete the signing. "Ruud was always Glenn's first choice this summer," he said. "We are delighted to have got him."

Gullit was captain of Holland when they won the European championship in 1988, and he collected two European Cup-winners' medals with AC Milan. Though he is no longer in his pomp, and will fill a less spectacular on-field role, Chelsea have invested wisely. The Premiership, too, will be a better place as the influx of continental talent continues.

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